

Table of Contents

Getting Started 2
General Information 2
Video Monitoring..... 2
In the Morning 2
After School 2
Student Management..... 2
Rules and Regulations..... 3
Progressive Discipline..... 3
Extreme Behavior..... 3
Bus Service During Bad Weather..... 3
Questions 4
Progressive Discipline Chart – Appendix A..... 4

Getting Started

You can find out which bus your child should ride, or the times and location of your child's bus stop by calling our Dispatcher at 360-446-2209.

General Information

School bus routes are planned to provide the safest, most efficient and cost effective service under all weather and road conditions. Students typically ride the bus 30 to 60 minutes each way. Riding times may occasionally be longer due to unforeseen circumstances.

Students should utilize the bus stop closest to their residence. Those who need to be dropped off at a location other than their original stop must have special permission, which may be granted after the parent/guardian has notified the school office. Your student will then be given a bus pass from the office and they will need to give this pass to the driver. These bus passes are valid for one day or a specific period of time that is listed on the pass.

Video Monitoring

Starting with the 2012-2013 school year, all of the Rainier School District buses will utilize video monitoring. Any students or adults riding the bus may be recorded. This measure is taken to help ensure the safety of our students.

In the Morning

Students need to be at their designated bus stop no later than five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. When they see the bus coming, students need to form a line starting well back from the edge of the road. Unfortunately, buses cannot wait for students who are not at the bus stop.

After School

When the school day ends, students need to go to their buses without delay. The buses will be pulling away from campus approximately 5-7 minutes after the dismissal bell rings.

Student Management

Student management procedures are designed to help ensure that each child has a safe, positive experience on our buses. Involving parents/guardians at the start of a discipline issue helps decrease the chance of more serious disciplinary problems, which may result in suspension from transportation services. Therefore, it is important that the schools have updated phone numbers for parents/guardians.

Rules and Regulations

Students are expected to follow the same general rules at bus stops and on the buses, as they are in the classroom. Students who misbehave may lose their bus riding privileges.

1. For the safety of everyone on the bus, students must comply with the directions of school personnel while riding on the bus.
2. Students must remain seated while riding on the bus.
3. Water is the only thing that students may eat or drink while riding on the bus.
4. Students may not transport balloons, glass objects, or animals on the bus.
5. Students must remain clear of the main aisle while riding on the bus.
6. Students must keep their hands, feet, and heads inside the bus at all times.
7. If students are using electronic equipment while riding on the bus, it must not disrupt the driver or others.

Progressive Discipline

When students are out of compliance with the Rules and Regulations for riding on the school bus, they will receive progressive discipline according to the chart listed in Appendix A. Each instance of progressive discipline will remain on the student's record for a period of two months.

Extreme Behaviors

Certain extreme behaviors, including but not limited to the following, will result in immediate suspension from the bus.

- Refusing to comply with school personnel
- Possession or use of alcohol or drugs
- Fighting or assault of others
- Smoking or chewing tobacco
- Spitting
- Vandalism
- Possession of a weapon
- Making racist, sexist, or discriminatory remarks or actions
- Bullying

Bus Service During Bad weather

Parents/guardians need to plan for changes in bus schedules and routes during snowy/icy conditions. Changes in district operating hours or bus service are announced on the Public Schools Emergency Communication System at www.schoolreport.org and on the district website at www.rainier.wednet.edu. This same information is also broadcast to all major local television and radio

A Safe Ride to School – Rainier School District

stations. You can set up a custom email or text notification by visiting www.schoolreport.org and signing up for their free notification service. Every effort is made to get information out to families as soon as possible, however sometimes conditions may change. If the start of school is delayed, please check back later that morning to see if changing conditions forced the district to go ahead and close for the day.

Questions

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| Transportation Department | 360-446-2209 |
| Rainier Elementary School | 360-446-4020 |
| Rainier Middle School | 360-446-2206 |
| Rainier High School | 360-446-2205 |
| Rainier District Office | 360-446-2207 |

A Safe Ride to School – Rainier School District

Appendix A – Progressive Discipline

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|---|-----------|--|
| Verbal Warning | Mandatory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver will verbally remind the student of the rules and expectations |
| | Optional | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver may choose an assigned seat |
| 1 st Write-Up | Mandatory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver will verbally remind the student of the rules and expectations • Principal/Transportation Supervisor will contact parents via telephone (may leave message) • A copy of the write-up will be mailed to the parents/guardian |
| | Optional | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal may take corrective action at school • Driver may choose an assigned seat |
| 2 nd Write-Up | Mandatory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver will verbally remind the student of the rules and expectations • Principal/Transportation Supervisor will contact parents via telephone (must talk with parent/guardian, no messages) • A copy of the write-up will be mailed to the parents/guardian • Driver will choose an assigned seat • Principal will take corrective action at school |
| Suspension (Except in emergency situations, the suspension of a student from the bus will not take place until the parents/guardians have been notified) | Mandatory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver will verbally remind the student of the rules and expectations • Principal/Transportation Supervisor will contact parents via telephone (must talk with parent/guardian, no messages) • Driver will complete video request form • A copy of the write-up will be mailed to the parents/guardian • Transportation Supervisor and Principal will coordinate the length of the suspension. |