

# ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES

*Ithaca school bus drivers and attendants care about your safety! Your mature and responsible bus behavior helps us protect all students on your bus.*

## 1. RESPECT YOUR DRIVER AND ATTENDANT

- Always follow their instructions - their job is to protect everyone on the bus.
- Observe general classroom behavior on the bus - distracting your driver could cause an accident.

## 2. RESPECT OTHER STUDENTS

- Treat others as you want to be treated - absolutely no name-calling, put-downs, threats, or bullying. Please show courtesy and respect to all your fellow riders at all times.
- No vulgar or inappropriate language.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Be at your bus stop at least five minutes early - it's dangerous to arrive late at the stop, and it's unfair to make other students late for school.

## 3. RESPECT YOUR OWN SAFETY

- Go directly to your assigned seat and stay seated. Seatbelts must be worn at all times. Make sure your seatbelt is properly adjusted - snug and across your hips. Belts cannot be twisted. School bus seats are designed to protect you if you are seated correctly, facing forward.
- Place backpacks or other items on your lap or on the floor in front of you. Do not place items in the aisle - it is against the law to block the aisle or an exit. In an emergency, you may need to get out of the bus quickly!
- No eating, drinking, or chewing gum - you could choke, and food mess creates an unhealthy environment on the bus. No use of perfume or fragrance products at any time - allergic reactions can be life-threatening.
- Check for traffic before exiting the bus and move directly away from the Danger Zones around the bus as soon as you're off. If you must cross the street, wait for your driver's signal, and check carefully for traffic. Please do not use a cell phone or wear headphones while boarding or exiting your bus.
- Avoid clothing or backpacks with long, dangling straps or drawstrings. They're dangerous - they can get tangled in the handrail or door as you exit the bus.
- If you drop anything near or under the bus, leave it there - step back away from the bus, and ask an adult to help.
- No smoking, tobacco products, lighters, or matches - fire on a school bus is extremely dangerous.
- Keep your hands, feet, and head inside the bus at all times.
- Never throw anything on the bus. You could injure another student, or distract the driver and cause an accident.

## 4. RESPECT SCHOOL PROPERTY

- Do not litter, mark up or damage seats, or play with emergency equipment - you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) are financially responsible for any damage to the bus.

### **IMPORTANT!**

*If anyone makes you feel threatened, bullied, or unsafe on the bus or at the bus stop, or if you know another student is being threatened or harassed, always tell your driver, attendant, parent/guardian, or another adult as soon as possible.*