

# Information Parents Should Know About ...

## School Bus Safety

- School buses are the safest form of highway transportation.
- The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the bus.
- The loading and unloading area is called the “**Danger Zone.**” The “Danger Zone” extends ten feet on all sides of the bus and is the area where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver.

## Our Bus Drivers

- Each school bus driver must provide to our district:
  - ◇ Up-to-date Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)
  - ◇ Compliance letter with driver’s current criminal history (background check and fingerprint records)
  - ◇ Current drug and alcohol testing certification
  - ◇ Results of current physical
  - ◇ Mantoux test results

## Our Buses

- The Cherry Hill School District does not own or maintain its own fleet of buses. Transportation services were privatized in 1995 and are currently contracted out to six bus companies.
- All of the buses used in our district are equipped with seat belts, stop arms, crossing arms, and two-way radios. Our regular buses have a 54-student capacity.
- New Jersey requires that school buses undergo state inspections two times per year. New Jersey has one of the most rigorous school bus inspection processes in the country. For more information, visit the state’s Motor Vehicle Commission website ([www.nj.gov/mvc#](http://www.nj.gov/mvc#)); click on the School Bus Safety link on the left side of the page.
- Cherry Hill’s contract specifications state that providers cannot use a bus that is more than seven years old. (New Jersey allows buses to be on the road up to 12 years, provided they pass inspections.)
- In accordance with New Jersey requirements, certain items, including brake lines, linings, and components, must be inspected and maintained at least once every three months, every 3,000 miles, or as set forth in the manufacturer’s specifications, whichever comes first.
- All of our bus companies require their drivers to conduct daily, pre-trip checks and to log the results of those checks.

## Bus Routes and Bus Stops

- Bus routes are posted at the schools about two weeks before the start of the school year. The starting time for the route is listed and each bus stop is approximately 3-5 minutes apart. (These times can vary, especially during the first two weeks of school, but will be more accurate by the third week.)
- Bus routes are established with designated stops. The routes are designed so that buses will travel the roads safely, transporting our many eligible riders in a timely and efficient manner.
- Buses operate only on roads that are properly maintained and considered safe and appropriate for school bus travel.
- The district will not establish school bus stops which require backing up the bus (due to limited visibility), nor in areas with extremely narrow streets, steep grades, dead-end streets, cul-de-sacs, or any other area which may present a safety hazard to students.



- Bus stops are designated at locations within a reasonable walking distance of students' homes. Every effort is made to establish stops in safe and convenient locations. Safety is always our top priority.
- Bus stops for secondary students are established at "hub" locations to improve transportation efficiency. Students may have to walk some distance to the designated stop.
- Bus routes are not established for the purpose of picking up students from or delivering them to their individual residences, except in the case of kindergarten students or certain special needs students.
- Bus drivers do not have the authority to change bus stops. Please do not ask a bus driver to stop at your home or request any other changes to the route. Requests should be directed to the Transportation Department. Be sure to include all relevant information (child's name, address, grade, phone number, reason for request). No changes will be made during the first three weeks of school!
- Students should ride only the school bus to which they are assigned.
- No student will be permitted to leave a bus at a point other than the school or the student's designated bus stop, unless prior arrangements have been made through the school.

### **Late Runs**

Our middle and high schools have late buses to provide transportation following after-school extracurricular and athletic activities. These buses are considered "Courtesy Only" and have no designated routes. Students are transported to a drop-off point on a perimeter street of their neighborhood. As the student boards the bus, he or she should inform the driver of the neighborhood in which he or she resides.

### **Lost and Found Items**

If your student leaves an object on the bus, the driver will keep the article up front until it is claimed the following day. If it is not claimed after one day, the driver will take it to the school office.

### **Medication**

Students should not bring medication onto the bus where it could be left, lost, or taken by another child. All medication should be delivered directly to the school nurse by parents.

### **Discipline**

The bus driver is in full charge of the bus at all times and is responsible for maintaining order. Disciplinary infractions will be reported in writing to the school Principal who will determine the appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Change of Address**

If you change your address, please notify the district Registration Department at (856) 429-5600. Registration will forward the information to Transportation. Allow at least 48 hours before contacting the department about your child's new bus stop. Changes are usually processed within 10 school days. Be advised that the district cannot accommodate temporary address changes (e.g., if the child is staying with grandparents while the parents are away).

