

Reminders for Motorists—Parents and community members can support bus drivers by being good safety examples to their children and by being courteous to bus drivers. Here are a few reminders.

- It is unlawful to pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights and stop arm extended from either direction on two-lane roads. Traffic on four-lane roads traveling in the opposite direction does not have to stop.
- A school bus with or without children must stop and use emergency lights at all railroad crossings.
- School buses make frequent stops and wide turns.



Serving all or part of:
Palatine • Rolling Meadows • Inverness
Hoffman Estates • Arlington Heights
Schaumburg • South Barrington

Board of Education

Gerald D. Chapman, President
Mark J. Bloom, Vice President
Peggy Babcock
Richard L. Bokor
James G. Ekeberg
Timothy Millar
Sue Quinn

Superintendent of Schools

Daniel W. Lukich, Ph.D.

**Community Consolidated
School District 15**



**Safely
Transporting
Our Future**

Named in 2001 by
School Bus Fleet
magazine as one of
the "Great Fleets
Across America"

Department of Transportation

Welcome to Transportation Services

School bus drivers are the first and last District 15 staff members our students see every school day. We want that experience to be positive.

District 15 operates its own bus fleet, which is one of the largest district-owned bus fleets in Illinois. A total of 138 buses safely transport 10,500 parochial and public school children each day.

Approximately 1.5 million miles are logged annually on district buses.

To maintain the highest safety levels

possible approximately 348 tires are replaced on district buses and two state inspections are performed on each bus every year. The district uses approximately 218,049 gallons of diesel fuel yearly for buses.

In 2001, the Transportation Department was named by *School Bus Fleet* magazine as one of the "Great Fleets Across America" on the basis of excellence in safety, maintenance, driver training, and innovation.



Tom Bramley
Interim Director of Transportation
Community Consolidated School District 15
Department of Transportation
1100 North Smith Street
Palatine, Illinois 60067
(847) 963-3900

Services

Free Riders—School District 15 provides free bus transportation for students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school and areas approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation as hazardous. The state of Illinois provides partial reimbursement for this service.

Pay Riders—State funding is not provided for students living within 1.5 miles of their school. These students may ride the bus for a fee determined annually by the Board of Education. Applications for pay-rider transportation are available at each school. Fee payments are billed through the business office at the Joseph M. Kiszka Educational Service Center.

Activity Buses—Activity buses are available to junior high school students after school and on a limited basis before school. Students who are involved in after-school clubs, sports, and activities may ride the after-school activity bus. These activity buses do not run the day before a school holiday. There is an annual fee of \$50/year/family.

Field Trips—Most district field trips are taken on School District 15 buses.

Routes and Stops—Scheduled bus routes and stops are assigned to accommodate the most centrally located population. Generally, buses do not stop at more than every other block (corner). As bus stop times are a general guide, **students are expected to be at their bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pickup time.** Heavy traffic, construction, or inclement weather can prevent drivers from maintaining the scheduled stop times. Students are encouraged to wait until the bus arrives.

Special Education Transportation—

Although most special education students attend a District 15 school, we provide bus transportation to other schools in the north and northwest suburban area.

The transportation and special services directors jointly coordinate special education bus routes. Because most special education students are picked up at “house” stops, parents are requested to call the transportation office (847-963-3909) if a student is not attending school, or you can leave a message on our absence recorder (847-963-3801). The transportation office opens at 5:30 a.m.

Safety

Driver Qualifications—All School District 15 bus drivers are licensed by the Secretary of State and the Illinois State Board of Education. To qualify for a school bus license, a driver must:

- Have a good driving record.
- Be at least 21 years old.
- Complete a state-mandated, eight-hour bus safety course.
- Demonstrate safe behind-the-wheel driving skills.
- Complete an annual two-hour bus safety refresher course.
- Pass an annual physical examination, including a drug/alcohol test.

School District 15 provides inservice workshops for drivers on topics such as bus safety, discipline, defensive driving, and driving in bad weather.

Bus Inspections—School District 15 maintains its own staff of trained mechanics.

All buses meet strict safety standards set by state and federal regulations. All buses are equipped with radios and are in contact with the transportation office at all times. Each school bus is required to have:

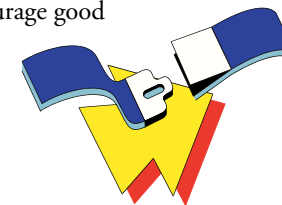
- A daily, pre-trip safety inspection by the driver.
- Preventive maintenance and safety inspection every 3,000 miles.
- An inspection every six months at a state-licensed safety-lane facility.
- A major safety and maintenance inspection annually or every 10,000 miles.

At least twice a year, students practice proper procedures for an emergency bus evacuation. In addition, all buses are equipped with a first-aid kit, a body fluid kit, and a fire extinguisher.

Student Safety and Behavior—Most accidents or injuries to students occur when they are boarding or leaving the bus. Students must follow every precaution when entering or leaving the bus. If anything is dropped when getting on or off the bus, **the child should not pick it up.** The child should let the driver know that something has been dropped so the driver may assist the student. Parents are encouraged to review this rule with their children.

Please talk with your children to encourage them to wear their seatbelt while riding on the bus.

Video Cameras—For your child’s safety, video cameras have been installed on district buses to monitor and encourage good behavior. The camera enables the driver to concentrate on driving the bus.



The following behavior guidelines are to be observed by all students:

1. Students must cross the road 10 feet in front of the bus only when the stop arm is out, the flashers are operating, and the driver signals them across.
2. While waiting for the bus, children are not to stand or play on the road or street.
3. Hands, arms, and/or head should not extend through the bus window.
4. Windows are not to be lowered beyond the safety mark.
5. Students should be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the bus. At the end of the school day, students are to go quickly to the designated area and wait in an orderly manner for the bus.
6. Students are to remain seated and encouraged to wear their seatbelts for the duration of the trip.
7. Students are to board/depart the bus at their assigned stop.
8. Loud conversation, profane language, throwing objects, and discourteous actions to the bus driver or other passengers will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for any damage to the bus.
9. Glass containers, live animals, and large objects may not be carried on the bus. Also, glue, nail polish, and hair spray are not allowed.
10. Students displaying inappropriate behavior will have bus-riding privilege taken away.

School bus discipline is a cooperative effort among student, parent, bus driver, and principal, and is necessary to ensure the safety of all students. Misbehavior on a school bus is highly distracting to a driver and creates an unsafe condition.