

Policy for: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM	Revision 0
Date Approved by School Committee: May 17, 2022	Signature of Chair: Matthew Spengler
Page 1 of 2	

The safety and welfare of student riders is the first consideration in all matters pertaining to school transportation in Needham.

Safety precautions will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Parents/guardians and children will receive guidance on the proper procedure for boarding and exiting a school bus, and for safe conduct while on board.
2. Bus routes stops will be designed to ensure that students can wait for an approaching bus, can board and exit a bus, and can cross a highway with the utmost safety allowed by road conditions. Additionally, bus stops should be located only where there is adequate clear vision in each direction for the driver.
3. Students will be required to ride their assigned bus and be picked up/ dropped off at their assigned stop.
4. Parents or guardians of Kindergarten students will be expected to meet the bus at the bus stop, prior to a student being let off the bus. If a parent or guardian is not present, the student must be brought back to the elementary school for parent/guardian pickup.
5. Emergency evacuation drills will be conducted regularly, to acquaint student riders with procedures in emergency situations.
6. Vehicles will meet the minimum standards for school buses, will be properly maintained, and will be periodically inspected to ensure conformance with state and federal safety requirements. Vehicles also will be equipped with first aid and safety devices, for use in an emergency.
7. Drivers will be properly trained and licensed for their role, and will exercise sound judgment that prioritizes the safety of passengers at all times. Drivers are expected to observe and enforce seat belt and child restraint laws; conduct pre-and post-vehicle safety checks; refrain from using a cell phone or electronic device while operating a vehicle; abstain from smoking, or consuming alcoholic beverages/ controlled substances while on board; and know what to do in an emergency, including in an accident or collision involving a school vehicle.

Except as provided for in Policy #EEAFB, the term ‘school bus’ will mean all vehicles used to provide pupil transportation services, including buses and vans.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY
NEEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FILE

EEAE/
EBBD

Policy for: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROGRAM	Revision 0
Date Approved by School Committee: May 17, 2022	Signature of Chair: Matthew Spengler Page 2 of 2

LEGAL REFERENCES:

- M.G.L. c. 71 sec. 37H
- M.G.L. c. 90 sec. 7B
- M.G.L. c. 90 sec. 7D
- M.G.L. c. 90 sec. 7AA
- M.G.L. c. 90 sec. 8A ½
- M.G.L. c. 90 sec. 13A
- 540 CMR 7.00
- 540 CMR 21.00