



GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
1100 4th STREET SOUTH
GREAT FALLS, MT 59405



TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN RIDING SCHOOL BUSES:

The Great Falls Public School District provides contracted school bus service through Big Sky Bus Lines; this service is significantly more accommodating than the three (3) mile limit Montana State Law requires School Districts to provide. The basic structure to this provided service is as follows: bus service to High School Students whose legal residence is in excess of **two (2) miles** from their assigned school; bus service to Middle School Students who’s legal residence is in excess of **one and one half (1 1/2) miles** from their assigned school; and bus service to Elementary School Students who’s legal residence is in excess of **one (1) mile** from their assigned school.

Students are expected to be at their assigned bus stop **five (5) minutes** prior to the scheduled departure. Call Big Sky Bus Lines to coordinate your clock ... **454-1283**.

Students can only board and depart their assigned bus at their assigned stop. Students are not allowed to ride home with or get off/on at friends’ bus and/or stop.

All school buses have a number of students assigned to them. This **assigned number may or may not** ride at all times. However, the assigned number is the **calculating number** for **“Space Available”** of each school bus. Great Falls Public School District has made the following provision: If a Parent/Guardian desires their student to ride a bus and their legal residence is closer than the limits, as listed in the first paragraph, the Parent/Guardian may contact the Great Falls Public School District Transportation Office to request permission to ride if space is available aboard a nearby bus. No added stops or changes in routes will accompany any of this type of request.

Concerns regarding drivers, bus aides or the bus itself should be directed to BSBL and handled by their management team @ **454-1283**.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

Great Falls Public Schools contracts school bus service to Big Sky Bus Lines Inc. This contract includes the directive and authority, to maintain Order and Safety of students aboard a school bus, according to District policies. School buses are provided as a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to display respect towards, and cooperation with, the driver at all times. Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with District policy. Students, who make the choice not to display respect, cooperation, or follow District Policy, may be subject to bus riding privileges being revoked. Warnings and/or the length of time privileges are revoked **MAY NOT BE IN A PROGRESSIVE ORDER**. Student misbehavior that results in immediate revoking of their privileges will require the management of Big Sky Bus Lines to first attempt to contact a parent, and if unsuccessful contact an administrator of the student’s school and have the assurance the parent has been contacted.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT.

Special Services: 268-6015.

Updated: 4/2/20