

TO: Parents or Guardians

FROM: F. LaMar Threatt
Director of Transportation

SUBJ: Parent or Guardian Responsibility – To and From Their Bus Stop

DATE: August 2, 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Bus Drivers and Assistants are accountable for all students under their care once they board the bus in the morning and upon acceptance of the child at the school at the close of the school day until they disembark the bus at their assigned bus stop.

In order to clarify where the responsibility of parents and schools districts end/take over, the State of South Carolina amended Section 3 Article 3, Title 59 of the 1976 Code by adding Section 59-67-415: Parental Responsibility.

"Section [59-67-415](#). Parents or guardians are responsible for the safety, conduct, and the timely arrival of their children to, from, and at the designated school bus stop before the arrival of the school bus for pick up and transport to school and the timely departure of the child after the school bus leaves the designated school bus stop after transporting the children from school. For purposes of this section, the phrase 'arrival of the school bus' includes the time that the school bus assigned to the school bus stop activates the required pedestrian safety devices, stops, and loads or unloads students until the school bus deactivates all pedestrian safety devices."

To reduce the possibility of students being discharged at incorrect bus stops, or left without parental/guardian supervision, we have initiated the following procedures:

Student Transportation Services must receive a Student School Bus Registration Form from the parent or guardian for each student that desires school bus transportation.

Bus drivers will not be permitted to leave a child at an alternate bus stop without written authorization from the parent or guardian.

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No child four years old or kindergarten students will be left a bus stop alone. A parent or guardian must be present. In addition, a parent or guardian must be present to receive students in first through third grade unless given permission by the parent or guardian in writing. In the event the parent or guardian isn't present to receive the student(s) the driver will contact the transportation office, providing the students name and return the student to the school. The transportation office will contact school officials that the student(s) are being returned to the school. The bus driver will ensure the students(s) are received by a school official.

Please complete the attached form and return to your child's school bus driver or your local Transportation Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your local Transportation Office.

- Director's Office: 231-7005
- North Main Office: 691-5578 or 691-5590
- Lower Richland Office: 695-5505 or 695-5504

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

REF: Acknowledgement-Permission Form for Release of Students at Bus Stops

I _____ acknowledge receipt of this letter. I do _____ do not _____ give permission for my child(ren) to be dropped off at their bus stop without supervision.

Name of Student	Age
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Name of Student	Age
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Name of Student	Age
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Assigned School: _____ Bus #: _____

I understand that the safety of my child to and from the bus stop is my responsibility. I also understand it will be my responsibility to be present at the bus stop to receive my four year old or kindergarten student(s) and it will be my responsibility to pick up my child(ren) from their assigned school should I not be present when they arrive home if four years old or kindergarten or if authorization is not granted for children in first through third grade.

Signature

Date

**RETURN FORMS TO THE BUS DRIVER OR THE
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE.**