

MSCS Parent and Student Bus Rider Agreement Form

All Riders Grades Pre-K-12

INSTRUCTIONS

Please review this document with your child regarding the expectations of riding the school bus.

Sign and return Page 4 to our front desk for each rider in your household within five (5) days of the first day of school.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Midlands Stem Charter School is providing you with information regarding student expectations as part of our Safe Rider Program. This program's purpose is to adopt a uniform approach to student expectations and incident response on our local bus route.

The safety of riders is our number one priority. The program includes a defined and tiered discipline plan, as needed, with the core of the program promoting personal accountability and empowering students to correct unsafe behaviors. The goal is to provide consistently safe and effective transportation service for all passengers.

Our MSCS Safe Rider Program aims to collaborate with parents, students, our bus monitor, and the bus driver, and the school to provide prevention from distracting driving, bullying, and overall bus-related problems. This program aligns with local education agencies' (LEA) transportation and school codes of conduct, as transportation is an extension of the school day.

Unsafe behavior protocol:

- If unsafe behavior occurs before the bus leaves the school, the student will be provided with two options: (1) Correct the behavior and continue home (behavior documented), or (2) Be removed from the bus and stay at the school with staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick up the student (behavior documented).
- If unsafe behavior occurs after the bus leaves the school, the driver will pull over, secure the bus and contact their supervisor. Their supervisor will then assess the situation with other Administration, and if necessary, call for emergency assistance. Guardians will be immediately notified if this occurs.
- If either of the above instances occurs, the tiered discipline plan will be in effect.

To achieve success with making MSCS buses safer, please frequently review the safety expectations with your rider. We thank you for your continued support.

Table 1: Behavior Expectations

EXPECTATION WHILE ON THE BUS LOADING AND UNLOADING

“Be Safe”

On the Bus: Stay seated – Backpack on your lap – Body parts & objects must always remain inside the bus. **Loading and Unloading:** Remain (6) six giant steps away from the bus when waiting at the bus stop – Wait for the bus driver/monitor’s signal before crossing the street & loading the bus – Put your electronics away – Always walk & use the handrail.

“Be Responsible”

On the Bus: Place all items in a backpack & out of the aisle – Refrain from eating & drinking on the bus for safety & cleanliness – Report any inappropriate or illegal behaviors to the driver and monitor. **Loading and Unloading:** At dismissal make sure you go directly to the bus – Get on & off the bus at your assigned stop – Arrive 10 minutes early to your assigned bus stop – When boarding the bus, go directly to your assigned seat – When exiting the bus, go directly to your home.

“Be Respectful”

On the Bus: Keep all body parts & other objects to yourself – Respect the bus by keeping it clean and free from damage. **Loading and Unloading:** Keep the bus stop clean – Board the bus one-at-a-time – Respect others around you, including others poverty.

“Be Peaceful”

On the Bus: Refrain from fighting, and play fighting – Speak in a calm, soft voice, & refrain inappropriate gestures & language, threats, & bullying. **Loading and Unloading:** Wait quietly and respectfully for the bus to arrive – Keep your body parts & other objects to yourself.

Table 2: Tiered Discipline Plan for All MSCS Riders

1st Offense: Parent/Guardian notified

Teacher/Administration notified

Bus incident form filed: incident notes entered in the Educators Handbook

Re-Assigned seat when applicable

A student & school leadership conference held to discuss the incident & infractions.

2nd Offense: A student, school & transportation leadership conference held to discuss the incident & infractions.

Parent/Guardian notified

Bus incident form filed, incident notes entered in the Educators Handbook

Conference with student, school & transportation leadership

Student on probation and **1-day bus suspension**

Upon return, the student placed on probation & reassigned to the front of the bus for one week

3rd Offense: Bus incident form filed, incident notes entered in the Educators Handbook

Conference with parent, student, school & transportation leadership

3-day bus suspension

Student Bus Behavior Contract signed

Upon return, student placed on probation & reassigned to the front of the bus for two weeks

4th & Final or Severe Offense: Bus suspension for the remainder of the school year

Bus incident form filed along with notes in Educators Handbook

Incidents involving weapons, fighting, bullying, etc. may automatically result in final tier response to a severe offense as referral & as outlined by school administrators

Following school year will result in a conference by school administration, transportation leadership, and school board to determine acceptance or refusal to return as a bus rider

Transportation Safe Rider Acknowledgement Form

Please return this page to your school bus driver acknowledging the MSCS Safe Rider policy within five (5) days of the first day of school. A completed and signed form is required for each rider in your household.

Below, please indicate anything you would like your bus driver and transportation department to know about your rider:

We have read the MSCS Safe Rider Program Policies and Protocols. We understand and agree to abide by all bus safety rules, and that failure to comply may result in bus suspension and loss of riding privilege if not corrected. We understand that this agreement applies for all extracurricular or additional bus activity trips.

Parent/Guardian (Please Print)	Parent/Guardian (Signature)	Date
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Student Name (Please Print)	Student Signature (Signature)	Date
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