

Patagonia School Bus Drivers are special people who are entrusted with the transport of our children to and from school as well as to athletic events and on field trips.

All Patagonia School Bus Drivers are certified in the state of Arizona by the Department of Public Safety.

The safety of our children is primary. For this reason a certified driver must meet the following qualifications:

- Hold a valid Commercial Driver's License.
- Complete and pass a New Driver Training Course.
- Complete and pass an annual Driver renewal course.
- Hold up to date CPR and First Aid certificates. This includes annual classes.
- Complete Behind the Wheel Training.
- Complete Behind the Wheel Skill Exam.
- Provide finger prints every 4 years to the Arizona Department of Public Safety

Patagonia exceeds the minimum standards for bus drivers by requiring that school bus drivers have annual physicals and drug screens in addition to the random drug screens required by the federal government.

Transportation of students is a privilege extended to students in the district, and is not a statutory requirement except for handicapped students, in accordance with their individual education programs.

The responsibility for the operation of student transportation shall be vested in the superintendent. Reasonable efforts shall be made to eliminate any particular hazards that might adversely affect the safety and welfare of any student.

Legal Ref: A.R.S. 15-203 (A)(1) 15-923  
15-342 (12) 15-945  
15-764 (A)(4) 15-946  
15-92128-900 (B)  
15-922

## **Bus Rules**

1. Student shall report directly to the bus and be seated as quickly as possible after school dismissal. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly fashion; do not run, push or crowd. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to leave or enter the bus. Walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus so the driver can see you at all times. Do not walk behind the bus. Before crossing the road, wait for the driver to signal.

2. Students are expected to help keep the bus clean and undamaged. Any damage from misbehavior shall result in costs incurred by the student as well as additional disciplinary action by the principal. The following items are NOT allowed on the bus: glass, knives, sharp objects, guns, water pistols, animals, toys and stereos. Food or drink on the bus will be at each bus driver's discretion.

3. Students will show consideration for other students and the bus driver by being courteous and well mannered. The following behavior is specifically prohibited: No profanity or abusive language. No smoking or chewing. No fighting, roughhousing, harassment or verbal abuse. The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs will be disciplined in accordance with district policy and / or the law.

4. All students must ride to school and home on their regular assigned bus. Bus will stop only at board approved stops. Drivers will not transport any person not regularly assigned to the bus without a signed pass from the school principal. Students are assigned seats by the driver and at no time are they to move from one seat to another.

5. In the event of misconduct on the bus, the driver will fill out a conduct report. These reports will be delivered to the transportation department and school principal and will be sent to the student's parent after administrative review.

6. FIRST REPORT: Visit school principal and a warning. SECOND REPORT: Two (2) days bus suspension. THIRD REPORT: Five (5) days bus suspension. FOURTH REPORT: Ten (10) days bus suspension. FIFTH REPORT: Suspended from the bus for the remainder of the year. Note: The principal may eliminate suspension steps or assign other punishment according to the severity of the offense.