

Gardner Valley School Transportation Policy

The Gardner Valley School will provide safe and comfortable transportation to eligible students in accordance with Colorado State Laws and Colorado Department of Education School Regulations, and this Policy is in addition to those laws and regulations. (Students riding buses provided by Huerfano Re-1 should refer to Huerfano Re-1 for their transportation policy.)

1. Responsibilities:

- a. Gardner Valley School (GVS) operates its own bus, and will provide eligible students who take the Walsenburg to Gardner Route transportation to and from school, and transportation for field trips. The GVS School Board and the Head of School are responsible for making decisions regarding the GVS Bus, transportation, designating stop locations, and scheduling stops. Bus stop locations must be designed to comply with state law regarding students' embarking and disembarking on major thoroughfares. If there are ever more students requesting bussing to GVS than available seats, students will be offered a seat on a first-come, first-served basis.
- b. The bus driver is responsible for transporting students safely to and from school and school events. The bus driver is also responsible for maintaining order and proper behavior of students on the bus. The bus driver shall have all required certifications, approvals, and licenses required to lawfully be a school bus driver. The bus driver is responsible for monitoring the condition of the school bus and reporting any maintenance or mechanical issues to the head of school immediately. The bus driver is subject to random or targeted drug/alcohol testing at any time.
- c. Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians are encouraged to support school staff and bus drivers to ensure the safety of their children by reviewing and discussing the school bus rules with their child(ren) in an effort to encourage them to assume responsibility for good school bus conduct. Parents/Guardians are also responsible for transporting their students to and from pickup points. In addition to any bus-specific rules and behavioral expectations, the GVS general Code of Conduct will apply to student behavior while riding the bus.

2. Eligibility: Must be enrolled at Gardner Valley School. The GVS Board and Head of School may develop additional eligibility, so long as it does not discriminate on the basis of a legally protected status.

3. Emergency Procedures: The safety and welfare of student riders shall be the first consideration in matters of transportation.

Emergency Planning: Students will be instructed as to the proper procedure for embarking and disembarking from a school bus in a proper and safe manner, both under normal conditions and in case of emergency. Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted regularly to thoroughly acquaint students with appropriate procedures for emergency situations.

Mechanical Issues:

- a. In case of an emergency on the bus, the driver will contact the GVS secretary or Head of School. Head of School will make decisions as to a plan of action. If necessary, parents/Guardians will be notified in a timely manner as to the nature of the emergency and what action is needed from the parent.

Medical Issue or Vehicular Accident:

- a. Driver will contact 911, then the Head of School. Head of School will make a plan of action and notify Parents/Guardians.

4. Student Conduct (on all buses owned or contracted services):

The rules of behavior and conduct of school bus/vehicle riders while waiting for the bus, while being transported to and from school, and during school-sponsored activities requiring the use of school vehicles is laid out in the Vehicle Conduct Agreement. In addition to any bus-specific rules and behavioral expectations, the GVS general Code of Conduct will apply to student behavior while riding the bus.

The privilege of riding in a school vehicle is contingent upon a student's good behavior and observance of the student code of conduct both at designated vehicle stops, on-board school vehicles, and while at school or school sponsored activities. The operator of a school vehicle shall be responsible for the safety of the students in the vehicle, both during the ride and while students are entering or leaving the vehicle. It is the operator's duty to notify the Supervisor of Transportation and the Head of School if any student violates these codes of conduct. Any student violation may constitute removal of bus privileges. Students must sign a contract to ride in a school vehicle, and as a general rule, this procedure for misconduct will be enforced*:

- After 1st write-up, student will not be allowed to ride for three days
- After 2nd write-up, student will not be allowed to ride for two weeks
- After 3rd write-up, student will no longer be allowed to ride in school vehicles.

*While the above progressive discipline policy will generally be followed, each incident of misconduct will be judged on a case by case basis by the Head of School for an appropriate and proportionate consequence, which may or may not follow the progressive discipline outlined above.