



---

# DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SAU 11

McConnell Center | 61 Locust Street, Suite 409 | Dover, NH 03820-4132  
Phone: 603-516-6800 | Fax: 603-516-6809

*Empowering all Learners*

---

August 2019

Dear Dover School Parents and Guardians,

The start of the 2019-2020 school year is quickly approaching. First Student Transportation will continue as the District's bus provider for Dover students. You can find the 2019-2020 bus routes posted on the District's website by clicking [here](#). Please note that some of the routes have changed.

The Dover School Board requested that First Student review all routes to allow for the following objectives to be achieved:

- Increased bus safety by allowing for loading and unloading on the right side of the bus. In addition, balance the capacity of the buses on the designated routes.
- Increased efficiency of routes, allowing buses to arrive at school on time for the start time and dismissal of school. New routes will eliminate going into cul-de-sac areas and will create more cluster bus stops. First Student has checked all affected areas for sidewalks.
- Increased cost effectiveness. Additional buses are not required in order to improve the efficiency of the new routing.
- Backup system increases flexibility to respond to issues with bus routes.

In preparation for the first day of school, which is Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, bus drivers will be driving their routes and familiarizing themselves with the location of bus stops before the start of school. It will take approximately one week before the drivers are fully familiarized with students and their stops, so please anticipate that route times may vary with the initial start of school.

Parents/Guardians are requested to review with their students, the following bus transportation expectations:

**At Bus Stops, Students Should:**

1. Wait and ride the bus, only if approved by the school;
2. Be orderly and safe;
3. Arrive at least 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Schedules do not allow time for drivers to wait for students who are not ready;
4. Wait clear of traffic and back 6-10 feet from the road;
5. Wait to approach the bus, only after the bus has stopped;
6. Cross the street only in front of the bus and after the driver has put on the flashing lights and signaled to cross.

**Once on the Bus, Students Should:**

1. Go directly to an available seat or assigned seat;
2. Remain seated during the bus ride;
3. Keep hands, head, arms, and legs inside;
4. Stay clear of emergency exit equipment;
5. Keep any object(s) they have carried on the bus in their possession;

6. Leave personal items in their bags (e.g., toys, etc.). Students can use electronic devices to listen to music and communicate;
7. Carry on only items that they can hold on their laps. Aisles must be kept free from books, lunch boxes, and other objects. Band Instruments and athletic equipment are allowed on the bus if they are placed on the student's lap or between their knees;
8. Not eat or drink food items. Only water is allowed on school buses;
9. Not willfully damage or deface any part of the school bus;
10. Not carry any living creatures on the bus (anything that eats or breathes).

**For the Driver to Keep Attention to the Bus Operation and the Traffic, Students Must:**

1. Not carry or use hazardous materials and/or nuisance items, such as laser lights, or aerosols.;
2. Not have or carry on weapons of any kind;
3. Not use or carry tobacco products, drugs, alcohol, or any other controlled substance;
4. Not use profanity or make obscene gestures;
5. Observe all other school rules and policies;
6. Show respect for the driver and other students;
7. Not be involved in unsafe behavior of any kind.

**The following are tips and tidbits:**

- First Student offices generally close at 4:30 p.m. Calls, faxes, or emails sent by parents after this hour will not be processed until the following business day which begins at 7:00 a.m. Therefore, parents need to understand that requests for changes in their student's morning pick-up cannot be guaranteed without timely notification, preferably 24 hours.
- For safety reasons, we encourage parents of kindergarten students to wait with their child at their morning bus stop.
- Parents of kindergarten and first grade students (or other person as designated below) are **required** to be waiting at the child's afternoon bus stop or the child will not be released from the bus. The bus driver will return the child to his or her school, so a parent can be contacted to pick up the child. A parent may submit a request to waive this policy to the school's principal. Other appropriate arrangements may be made for the child's safe travel to their home or afterschool care (e.g., walk with older siblings, babysitter, or another responsible adult). An approved waiver must be on file with the school, the bus company, and the bus driver, or the child will not be released.
- Before- and after-school care transportation will be provided to licensed daycare facilities only. Generally, these facilities must be located in your elementary school's district. Please contact First Student directly for information on approved daycare facilities.
- We are unable to transport students to friends' homes for after-school visiting. Bus routes are developed based upon student capacities.
- Bus passes for all students riding the bus to and from Dover Middle and High Schools will be required to display them daily. Contact your school directly for the procedures to follow for bus passes.
- On a Delayed Opening, bus transportation will start approximately 2 hrs. later (i.e. if your child's pickup is at 6:15 a.m., the delayed pickup time will be approximately 8:15 a.m.).

**Telephone Numbers for Transportation Questions:**

Dover Students	First Student Transportation	692-4406
Special Education Students	Seacoast Learning Collaborative	679-2021
Barrington/Nottingham Students	Dail Transportation	736-9682

For a full review of the ***School Transportation Policy - EEAEC*** click [here](#) or see your school office for a copy.

If you have any questions pertaining to your student's bus route, please contact First Student directly. Dover School District wishes you a successful start to the 2019-2020 school year.

Sincerely,



William R. Harbron, Ed.D.  
Superintendent