

WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-3J

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

2016-2017

PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Weld County School District Re-3J does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to participation and admission in any Weld County School District Re-3J program. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Superintendent of Schools – Weld County School District Re-3J

99 West Broadway, Keenesburg, CO 80643

Phone: 303-536-2000

Declaración de No Discriminación

El Distrito Escolar Re-3J del Condado Weld, no discrimina conforme la raza, color, origen de nacionalidad, sexo, discapacidad, ó edad en sus programas y actividades y proporciona acceso de igualdad a Boy Scouts y otros grupos diseñados para la juventud. La siguiente persona ha sido designada para tratar con averiguaciones relacionadas con la ley de no discriminación:

Superintendente de Escuelas – Weld County School District Re-3J

99 West Broadway, Keenesburg, CO 80643

Teléfono: 303-536-2000

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child/children's Route is _____.

Your Driver's name is _____.

Please insure that your child/children know this information.

Transportation Mission Statement

To provide for the **safe, reliable, and efficient** transportation of Weld County School District Re-3J students, in support of curricular and extra-curricular activities. To provide maintenance support for all District transportation and ground support assets. **Safety is the first and foremost priority.**

The Transportation Department of the Weld County School District Re-3J has prepared this handbook to acquaint you with the procedures covering your child/children's transportation. We need your assistance and cooperation to maintain a timely, reliable, and safe service. Your knowledge of, and following of these procedures will help us to transport your child/children with maximum service, courtesy, and safety. Please keep in mind that the school bus is the safest means of transporting your child/children.

Driver Training – Weld County School District Re-3J requires each Bus Driver to have:

- A valid commercial Driver's License
- A School Bus/Passenger endorsement
- An annual driving evaluation
- Successfully passed a physical examination
- First Aid and CPR certification
- Passed mandatory drug & alcohol testing
- Passed State & Federal background investigations

In addition, Weld County School District Re-3J requires drivers to attend regular safety and in-service training sessions to enhance their student management and driving skills.

School Bus Equipment – To insure that our equipment is safe and reliable, all transportation vehicles used to transport students are inspected daily for defects by the driver. The vehicle mechanics do in-depth inspections and preventative maintenance at regularly scheduled intervals.

Established Walking Distances – Elementary students living within the city limits will walk to their assigned school. Junior High and High School students will walk to the elementary school closest to their home, and board a school bus for transportation to the Junior High or High School. All students within the established walking distances will be expected to walk, unless they have received approval for special bussing.

Assignments – Students shall ride the bus that they are assigned to. No one except school personnel and students regularly assigned to a school transportation vehicle for a particular route and schedule may ride in that vehicle unless they have received authorization from the Transportation Department. The Transportation Department reserves the right to assign Bus Drivers and vehicles to routes and trips.

It is imperative that students ride their assigned bus at all times. If a student is to be dropped off at a bus stop, different from their regular stop, the parent/guardian must contact the Transportation

Department for approval prior to the time of the scheduled drop-off. If the parent/guardian wants the student to be transported on two different routes, they must contact the Transportation Department for approval. All changes must have prior approval of the Transportation Department. Changes may take up to 3 days to process.

Bus Stops –We expect students to be ready for pick-up five minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time. If the bus is more than 10 minutes late, please call the Transportation Department at (303) 536-2900. If your child/children are not at the bus stop at the scheduled time, the driver will not honk the horn, wait beyond the scheduled pick-up time, or make phone calls, and will proceed to the next stop. If the driver sees the student, and the student is making an effort to get to the bus, the driver will wait for the student. Students who are consistently tardy may lose bus privileges. Students who do not ride the bus for 3 consecutive days without notifying the Transportation Department, will be removed from the route schedule. You will have to contact the Transportation Department to reestablish riding privileges.

Pick-up and drop-off areas must be free of obstacles that might create a danger to the students or the bus. Students must be out of the roadway, either on the sidewalk or on the shoulder of the road as the bus approaches. They must wait for the driver to open the door and motion for them to board. They should wait for, and approach the bus in single file. Misconduct at the bus stop can affect transportation privileges. In the event that a student causes property damage at a bus stop, the student and parent/guardian will be held responsible to the property owner for the damage, and the proper authorities may be notified.

Once students are dropped off, they are to proceed directly to the school building, or as directed by the parent/ guardian.

*****After the 3rd time the parent fails to be at the drop off location on time the district will not transport the student home. Transportation services will be discontinued.*****

Route Changes – Parents and students should be prepared for changes in buses, routes, and scheduled pick-up and drop-off times throughout the school year because of student rider changes and driver availability. Overall route travel time will vary from route to route. After an initial adjustment period at the start of the school year, or upon reorganization of routes, the pick-up and drop-off times should be consistent. Buses may run late because of weather or traffic conditions.

If You Move – If you move, please provide your child/children's school with the appropriate address. Address information must be correct in the student information system at the student's school before transportation will be changed. Please contact the Transportation Department for pick-up and drop-off information.

Lost Students – In the event the bus does not drop off your child/children, please call the school(s) that they attend to verify that they did not stay for an after school activity. If your child/children are not at school, at a friend's house, or were not picked up by another family member or friend, call the Transportation Department at (303) 536-2900. We have the ability to contact your child/children's driver.

Legal Custody – Neither the school nor the Transportation Department has legal authority to determine which parent/guardian has access to the child/children. If one of the parent/guardians is not allowed access to the student, the school must have a copy of the legal documentation limiting access; otherwise it will be assumed that all parent/guardians have access to the child/children.

Preschool and Kindergarten – Students will only be released to a responsible party. In the event that there is no authorized person at the bus stop, the Bus Driver will notify the Transportation Department, and then continue on route while the parent/guardian notification is made. The student will be returned to their school if no parent/guardian is available. Preschool and Kindergarten students who are bused to a community bus stop must be signed off by a parent/guardian. Continued drop-off problems with your child/children may result in the suspension or loss of transportation privileges.

Special Needs Student Transportation – Special bussing services must be approved for each special needs student as part of their Individual Education Plan (IEP). The transportation vehicle used to transport a special needs student will be operated by a specially trained driver, will be equipped in accordance with their IEP, and will be meet all safety requirements.

Bus and Safety Rules – To maintain order and ensure student safety, the following rules will apply:

- Students are expected to listen to and follow directions
- Students will give their correct first and last names when asked
- Students will not talk or make noises at railroad tracks
- Students shall not have hazardous objects or weapons of any type on the bus (including laser pens)
- Students who have a problem on the bus should report it to the Bus Driver as soon as possible, and not take matters into their own hands
- Students are expected to arrive at their designated bus stop 5 minutes prior to the pick-up time
- Students shall not engage in any type of horseplay on the bus or at the bus stops
- Students will stay in a single file line when boarding and exiting the bus
- Students should never run or push anyone towards the bus
- Students will remain seated when the bus is in motion
- Students will keep all their belongings in their pockets, purse, or backpack at all times
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves, and inside the bus at all times
- Students will stay in their seat, facing the front of the bus, with both feet on the floor
- Students will keep the aisle and emergency exits clear of all objects
- Students will not eat, drink, chew gum, smoke, chew tobacco, or consume alcohol at any time, while riding the bus
- Students will not use loud talking (not be heard more than 3 seats away) or profanity on the bus
- Students will not litter on the bus
- Students will not cause damage to the bus

Discipline – If a student makes the decision to not follow the rules, the following consequences shall occur:

- A warning from the bus driver
- Referral to the student's principal

School Closure – When it becomes necessary to close school for any reason, information can be found at the following:

www.re3j.com
KCNC (Channel 4)
KUSA (Channel 9)

(303) 536-2070
KMGH (Channel 7)
KOA (850 AM)

WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-3J TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

Please read carefully, sign, and return this agreement within 3 days after receiving the Parent and Student Transportation Handbook. Failure to return the completed and signed contact will result in the loss of bus privileges. Students are responsible for knowing the information and all the rules in the handbook, parents are encouraged to review it with their child/children.

Bus drivers, students, parents, teachers, and school administrators share the responsibility for bus safety. Following all rules and behaving in a responsible manner is imperative. The bus driver will remind students to follow the rules, to act in a safe manner, and to respect other people and their property, so they have the opportunity to change their behavior.

Riding a school bus is a privilege and not guaranteed by school law. If you behave appropriately, you will be allowed to ride the bus. If not, your bus riding privileges may be suspended, even after one incident, depending on the seriousness of the incident. Students suspended from the bus are still required to attend school. The parents/guardians of a student, who has lost bus riding privileges, are responsible for the transportation of their child/children to and from school.

An audio visual recording device may be installed and used in school buses for purposes related to safety.

Please feel free to contact the Transportation Department at (303) 536-2900 if you have any questions.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please list any medical concerns, medications, or anything important that could impact the safe transportation of your child/children: _____

Comments: _____

Signatures indicate that you and your student have read, understand, and acknowledge that riding the school bus is a privilege and that you agree to follow the rules in the Parent and Student Transportation Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____