

SCHOOL BUS
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REGULATIONS

(Taken from the “South Carolina School Bus Driver Training Manual”)

South Carolina has laws that govern where school bus stops may be made. A few of these are listed for you below.

1. School bus stops must be made at safe points at least 2/10 of a mile apart with at least 600 feet of clear visibility in both directions of the stop.
2. Students must live 1-1/2 mile or more from the school in which they attend in order to be eligible for school bus transportation.
3. Students must live 3/10 mile or more from the regular established route in order to be eligible for school bus transportation.

State of South Carolina Department of Education Memo dated 8/27/2002:

Band instruments, or other items, carried on a school bus must be of such size that they can be transported in the students lap. This is necessary to insure that all items are kept under the control of the student at all times in case of an accident or an emergency.

The United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Standard 17, Pupil Transportation Safety, reads in part:

...baggage and other items transported in the passenger compartment should be stored so that the aisles are kept clear and the doors and emergency exits of school vehicles remain unobstructed at all times.

No large science projects, boxes, live animals, etc. are allowed to be carried on the school bus. Parents must make other arrangements for these types of projects. This also includes unicycles. All carry on items must be able to be held in the child's lap.

Remember, school buses can carry between 54 and 78 passengers. School buses are made for the safe transportation of students and every effort must be taken to keep school buses the safest form of transportation on the road.

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Parents of students 3rd grade and under are required to be present at the bus stop or visible so that the parent can safely see the bus stop and the driver can see the parent. It is the parent's responsibility to be home when these age students arrive in the afternoon. If the parent can not be home, they are required to have someone else meet the bus. If this is the case, the parent should send a note to the bus driver to let them know someone other than the parent will be there to pick up the child. If the parent or another responsible party is not at the bus stop when the bus arrives, the child will be taken back to his or her designated school.

If a student chooses to ride home with another student, a student must ride a different bus, or a student is to get off at a stop other than his or her own, the parent is required to send a note to the school to be signed by an administrator and given to the bus driver. If a note is not sent, the child will be delivered to their designated bus stop.