



BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

Assuring learning excellence and readiness for a changing world.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT PAUL PETERSON.....	3
BACK TO SCHOOL AT A GLANCE.....	4
LEARNING OPTIONS.....	5
ABOUT THE LEARNING OPTIONS.....	6
OPTION ONE: IN-PERSON LEARNING.....	6
OPTION TWO: HYBRID.....	7
OPTION THREE: DISTANCE LEARNING.....	8
HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	9
OTHER HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES.....	12
RIDING THE BUS SAFELY.....	13
FOOD SERVICES.....	14
CHILD CARE.....	15
HELPFUL INFORMATION.....	16



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Preparations for the 2020-2021 school year are underway amidst a public health pandemic. We are committed to the safety of students and staff while providing a quality, well-rounded educational experience that focuses on rigorous academic standards while also helping students develop necessary social and emotional skills. Although we are presented with situations new to many of us, it's important to consider the opportunities we have to tap into technology and innovation to connect students, help them learn together and encourage them to have fun.

Mankato Area Public Schools' *Back to School Plan* shares information about the in-person, hybrid and distance learning options that will be used--and sometimes may change--throughout the school year based on county public health data regarding COVID-19. Although there are three learning options, families may choose to have their students fully participate in distance learning.

In addition, information about health and safety, such as daily health screening and symptoms to look for; face coverings/masks, cleaning/sanitation protocols; transportation on school buses, safe food services, child care and other helpful resources are included.

Our plan is based on Minnesota's *Safe Learning Plan*, which prioritizes student/staff safety and health, data-driven decision making and the importance of local school districts to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of their students, families and communities. We continue to work closely with local, county and state partners to educate, promote and encourage Greater Mankato to help us reach our collective goal of returning students to safe and healthy school environments.

Thank you for your patience. We will continue to communicate with parents/families throughout the school year to keep you informed. We look forward to working with you, your family and our community to help get our students and staff back to school safely.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Paul Peterson
Superintendent

MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS' BACK TO SCHOOL

COMMITMENT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Student and staff safety is a priority.

- Face mask/covering requirements (provided to students and staff).
- Enhanced cleaning and sanitation protocols.
- Social distancing measures in place.
- Space modifications to maximize social distancing.
- Breakfast and lunch space adjustments for safe and sanitary meals at all schools.
- Adult supervision on school buses to assist students with health and safety protocols.
- Staff training in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocols.
- Soap and water or hand sanitizer available and frequently used throughout the school day.

Face masks/coverings



Hand washing



Social distancing



THREE MAPS LEARNING MODELS AT A GLANCE

IN-SCHOOL



HYBRID



Students in grades PreK-5 will attend school daily with strict social distancing and capacity guidelines in place.

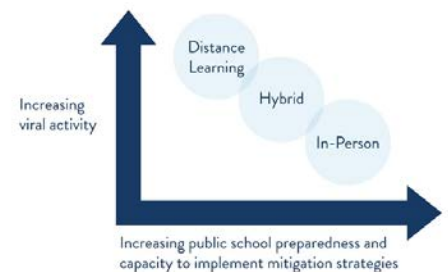
6-8 and 9-12 Modified in-person attendance schedule.

Social distancing and reduced occupancy requirements in schools and on buses in place.

DISTANCE LEARNING



Available to all students.



DELIVERY MODELS MAY CHANGE BASED ON COVID-19.

PLANNING CONTINUES AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Please complete and return survey sent to you to help assist with planning efforts.

Complete survey



Assuring learning excellence and readiness for a changing world.

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LEARNING OPTIONS

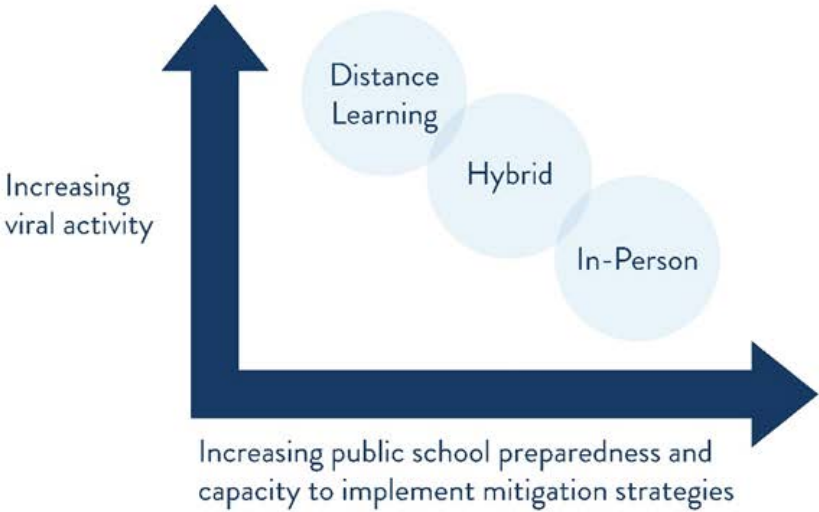
Based on COVID-19 data, Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS) will implement one of three learning options: in-person, hybrid and distance learning. This data is provided by the local county.

Families may choose to sign their students up for distance learning through Mankato Area Public Schools.

How learning option is determined

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

Since learning options are based on county data, the learning option used may change based on COVID-19.



Minnesota Department of Education Safe Learning Plan

Stay informed about Mankato Area Public Schools' news and happenings

Sign up to receive Mankato Area Public Schools' news alerts by email or text message to stay informed about school district news and events. Subscribe online at isd77.org.

Note: Information in this plan is subject to change based on Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

ABOUT THE LEARNING OPTIONS

OPTION ONE: IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN (DISTRICT-WIDE)

OPERATIONS

- Implementation of MAPS COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
- Social distancing floor/seating markings in waiting and reception areas.
- Visual reminders of spacing on floors/seats/walls to remind students and staff to stay 6 feet apart in lines and during other times and in places they typically congregate (e.g., during lunch, arrival and dismissal, restrooms, locker rooms, etc.).
- Staff monitoring of arrivals and dismissals based on assigned door entry to reduce congregating and ensure students go straight from vehicle to classroom, and vice versa. This includes loading and unloading of buses.
- Limit nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Breakfast and lunch delivery in classrooms and flexible eating areas.
- Modified bus and parent/guardian pick-up/drop-off protocols.
- Modified school-day schedule to decrease high volume student transitions between classes, during lunch and after school.

STUDENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- Elementary and middle school entry conferences through a mixture of online and in-person opportunities.
- School-wide “Welcome Back” plan to help provide support and address Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) components as students return to school.
- Multiple language signage for health and safety expectations (examples include: hand washing, physical distancing, coughing/sneezing into arms, etc.).
- Teach proper health and safety etiquette.

ACADEMIC GUIDANCE

- Shared virtual learning spaces in classrooms and courses.
- Review what was taught during the distance learning period this spring.
- Build in critical standards not addressed or mastered from the previous year and align them to current year’s standards.
- Determine student learning gaps and target individual student learning needs.





OPTION TWO: HYBRID LEARNING PLAN (DISTRICT-WIDE)

OPERATIONS

- PreK-5 students--PreK-5 will attend school daily with strict social distancing and capacity guidelines in place.
- 6-8 students--Modified A/B day schedule with blend of in-person and distance learning. Specific schedule details will be shared by each middle school.
- 9-12 students--Modified A/B/C day schedule with blend of in-person and distance learning. Specific details will be shared by each high school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED

- Implementation of MAPS COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
- Social distancing floor/seating markings in waiting and reception areas.
- Visual reminders of spacing on floors/seats/walls to remind students and staff to stay 6 feet apart in lines and during other times and in places they typically congregate (e.g., during lunch, arrival and dismissal, restrooms, locker rooms, etc.).
- Staff monitoring of arrivals and dismissals based on assigned door entry to reduce congregating and ensure students go straight from vehicle to classroom and vice versa. This includes loading and unloading of buses.
- Limit nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Meals for K-5 will be delivered to the classroom; and meals for 6-12 may be picked up through serving line and then return to flexible eating area.
- New bus and parent/guardian pick-up/drop-off protocols.
- Modified school-day schedule to decrease high volume student transitions between classes, during lunch and after school.

STUDENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- School-wide "Welcome Back" plan to help provide support and address Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) components as students return to school.
- Multiple language signage for health and safety expectations (examples: hand washing, physical distancing, coughing/sneezing into arms, etc.)

ACADEMIC GUIDANCE

- Shared virtual learning spaces in classrooms and courses.
- Technology devices and access.
- Grade-level teachers review what was taught during the distance learning period this spring to support continuity in learning.
- Build in critical standards not addressed or mastered from the previous year and align them to current year's standards.



OPTION THREE: DISTANCE LEARNING PLAN (DISTRICT-WIDE)

OPERATIONS

- Students do not attend class in school buildings.
- Shared virtual learning platforms for class grades:
 - PreK-2 → SeeSaw
 - 3-8 → Google Classroom
 - 9-12 → Moodle
- Implement no contact pick up and/or delivery of meals and school materials.
- Implement school-age care program for critical workers.

STUDENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- Office hours for students to get help or talk to a teacher or adult.
- Social emotional learning programs throughout all grade levels and schools.

ACADEMIC GUIDANCE

- Technology devices and access provided for those needing assistance.
- Daily attendance will be taken.
 - Students must have documented student-teacher or parent-teacher contact on a given day to be reported as being in attendance.
 - Attendance must be taken and recorded at least once per day based on a teacher's direct interaction with the student.





HEALTH AND SAFETY

DAILY HOME SCREENING FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Use this checklist every day before your child leaves for school to determine symptoms and/or close contact/potential exposure.

Section 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms it indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

- ☐ Temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- ☐ Sore throat;
- ☐ New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- ☐ Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- ☐ New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

Section 2: Close contact/potential exposure

- ☐ Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19: OR
- ☐ Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2; OR
- ☐ Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- ☐ Live in areas of high community transmission while the school remains open.

If "Yes" is the answer to any of the questions above, keep the student at home and notify the school of your child's absence. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are asked to stay home. If they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately to help prevent the spread of illness.

HOW WILL STUDENTS/STAFF BE SEPARATED WHILE IN SCHOOL IF EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS?

Each school building will have an isolation room or space separate from the nurse's office where students or employees who may have symptoms of COVID-19 will wait to be evaluated or picked up. Only essential staff and students assigned to the isolation room or space may enter.



Each person who enters the room will sign in to create a record for potential contact tracing. The room will be disinfected and sanitized several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required and staff will wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Staff will assist students who are ill by helping them get to their parents/guardians.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THERE IS A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING?

When it's confirmed that a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, Mankato Area Public Schools will:

- Contact the local health department.
- Notify parents, students and employees of close contacts to inform them of the confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Encourage cooperation to trace contacts with the individual.

Note: The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large, but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the health department.

HOW IS IT DETERMINED WHEN TO QUARANTINE A STUDENT OR EMPLOYEE?

Students and employees will be asked to self-quarantine if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained.

Symptoms looked for:

- Fever of 100.4° F or greater.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Chills.
- Muscle pain.
- Headache.
- Sore throat.
- Loss of taste or smell.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

WHAT TYPES OF SCREENING WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?

Screening protocols are in place for anyone who enters MAPS' buildings. These protocols may include asking questions about symptoms and examining people who appear healthy and asymptomatic.

Self-screening: Students, parents and employees are required to self-screen for COVID-19 prior to coming to school. The first self-screening process begins at home.



WHAT ARE THE FACE MASK/COVERING REQUIREMENTS?

To protect MAPS' students and employees, face masks/coverings are required. The Minnesota Department of Health and CDC state that face coverings are beneficial in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a face mask/covering could prevent the district from having to move to a distance learning or hybrid learning scenario.

- All are required to wear a face mask/covering in common areas, holding areas, on buses and during transitions and class changes.
 - Note: Teachers may have a mask or face covering down in a classroom instructional area for instructional purposes provided there is at least 6 feet of social distance in place.
- Medical and special circumstances will be considered.
- MAPS asks students and employees to provide their own face mask/covering each day.
- The district will provide one washable mask per student and employee at the beginning of the school year.
- Face masks/coverings will be on hand for those who may forget periodically.
- Face masks/coverings must follow the MAPS' dress code for students policy, which includes no inappropriate designs, pictures, symbols, slogans, offensive language or political statements.
- Face masks/coverings may:
 - Have appropriate designs such as the school mascot.
 - Display school/college mascot name or school name.
 - Be monogrammed with the student's name or name initials.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR FACE SHIELDS?

A face shield (a clear plastic barrier that covers the face) allows visibility of facial expressions and lip movements for speech perception and may be used as an alternative to a face covering/mask in the following situations:

- Among students in Kindergarten through grade 8 when wearing a face covering is problematic.
- By teachers, when wearing a face covering may impede the educational process.
- For staff, students, or visitors who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.
- For staff providing direct support student services when a face covering impedes the service being provided.

Note: Guidelines for face coverings/masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be adjusted based on Minnesota Department of Health and CDC guidelines.

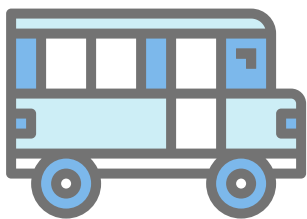


OTHER HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

Health and safety protocols, such as managing student and staff arrivals at school, maintaining safe social distancing and increasing other healthy habits while in school buildings, help minimize the exposure and spread of COVID-19.

- School nurses and/or health assistants available on each campus to support health needs.
- All employees trained on CDC guidance and health safety protocols to reduce likelihood of COVID-19 transmission.
- Daily screening protocols for employees and students. Those who have had their daily health screening will be documented.
- Students who do not pass arrival screenings and/or become ill with COVID-19-related symptoms will be placed in isolation areas to wait for parent/guardian pick up.
- Hand sanitizer and tissues available in classrooms, throughout the school and will be frequently used throughout the school day.
- Soap and paper towels in restrooms will be replenished throughout the day.
- Hand-washing instructions and regular reminders reviewed and implemented.
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet throughout the building, including hallways and common areas, will be maintained.
- Soft furnishings, hard-to-disinfect toys and personal items will be removed to increase usable class space.
- Classrooms will be rearranged to ensure the most social distancing footage possible is utilized between student seating areas. Tables and desks will face the same direction.
- All buildings will be provided PPE and cleaning and disinfection items on site.
- Enhanced daily cleaning, sanitation and disinfection of high-touch areas, classrooms and spaces will be conducted multiple times throughout day, after school, between classes or as often as feasible.
- Water bottle fillers will be available. Regular water fountains will be disabled.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available in all buildings.
- Plexi-Glass sneeze guards will be used in various locations.





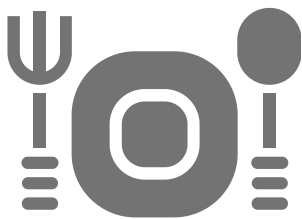
RIDING THE BUS SAFELY

MAPS transportation team will help determine family transportation needs and coordinate bus routes based on route capacity and needed accommodations. Safety remains at the forefront of this effort. The current transportation safety protocols are outlined below:

- Transportation provided, but social distancing is challenging on buses. For this reason, parents/guardians are asked to provide private transportation if possible.
- Adult supervision on school buses to assist students with health and safety protocols.
- Each transportation provider (Yaeger Bus and Palmer Bus Service) has procedures for employee health checks.
- Transportation staff will practice MAPS' protocol and precautions for COVID-19.
- Bus drivers wear face mask/covering at all times while driving the bus.
- Face coverings/masks are mandatory when students enter the bus, during the ride to and from school and when exiting the bus.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided on the buses.
- Upon exiting the bus, students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol as soon as possible.
- Bus drivers use Environmental Protection Agency/CDC approved products to disinfect hand rails, bars, seats and other frequently touched surfaces after each route.
- Students will be seated starting at the rear of the bus and exit from front of the bus.
- Students will remain in their seats until it is their seat's turn to exit.
- Students will be assigned a seat based on a seating chart.
- Windows on buses will be kept open as much as possible.

For more information about transportation services, please contact staff at 507-387-5949 or 507-387-3224.





PROVIDING SAFE FOOD SERVICES

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommendations to ensure safety for students and staff, breakfast and lunch will be offered in the classroom or flexible eating areas and protocols for safe and sanitary meal service will be put in place at all schools.

Protocols include:

- Food service staff will wear facial coverings and gloves during food preparation and serving.
- Provide pre-packed breakfast to students who purchase breakfast when they enter the building each morning.
- Deliver pre-packed lunches to classrooms in elementary schools.
- Follow CDC guidelines for social distancing to pick up prepared hot lunch through serving line and then return to flexible eating area.
- Hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds by students and staff before and after meal service (hand sanitizer may be used when soap and water is not available).
- Sanitize food serving tables prior to, during and after each meal service.
- Maintain 6 feet of distance between staff and students during meal service.
- Food/drink may not be shared.
- Dispose of all perishable food items.

If distance or hybrid learning is used, grab-and-go meal opportunities and meal pick-up guidelines will be provided. Student lunch status (free, reduced, or full pay) will be in effect for this program.

For more information about food services contact staff at 507-388-7442.





CHILD CARE

ACES will be providing childcare during the 2020-21 school year in all three learning scenarios. All families registered for Mankato Area Public Schools grades K-5 are eligible for ACES. Tier I employed families will have priority registration for ACES. Hours and locations will be determined by the safe learning plan scenario.

IN-PERSON AND HYBRID LEARNING PLAN SCHEDULE

- Before school care (6:30 a.m. until school starts)
- After school care (after school until 6 p.m.)

DISTANCE LEARNING PLAN SCHEDULE

- Full day care (6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.)
Families can register for full day care (fee for service)
- Tier 1 families qualify for free care during the school hours. There will be four options for Tier 1 families to choose from based on their child care needs:

SCHOOL DAY, MORNING AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- School day only (no cost)
- School day + AM care (AM care is fee for service)
- School day + PM care (PM care is fee for service)
- School day + AM care + PM care (AM/PM care is fee for service)

More information can be found at mankatocer.com or by calling 507-387-5501.





HELPFUL INFORMATION

INFINITE CAMPUS/PARENT PORTAL

Stay connected to student information through the Infinite Campus/Parent Portal: <https://tinyurl.com/MApSinfinitecampus>.

Please make sure you are able to log into your Infinite Campus/Parent Portal account. If support is needed to log-in or set up an account, please contact the Infinite Campus support team at ICsupport@isd77.org.

SUBSCRIBE TO MAPS' NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

Subscribe online at isd77.org/discover-maps/district/news.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Check for MAPS' COVID-19 updates online at isd77.org/discover-maps/about-maps/covid-19-information.

TECHNOLOGY HELP

507-387-7698

isd77.org/discover-maps/departments/educational-technology-information-services

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

507-387-1818

isd77.org/discover-maps/departments/student-support-services.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Find staff contact information online at isd77.org/discover-maps/about-maps/staff-directory.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

isd77.org/discover-maps/district/calendars

OTHER LINKS

Minnesota Department of Health

health.state.mn.us/

Minnesota Department of Education

education.mn.gov/mde/index.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

cdc.gov/



RIDE THE BUS with us

Mankato Area Public Schools
Transportation rules and regulations
for a safe and pleasant ride.



10 Civic Center Plaza
Mankato, MN

507-387-5949
507-387-3224

isd77.org
September 2020



These guidelines are designed to support safety on the bus as well as encourage a positive riding environment for all who use this transportation system. To uphold these guidelines, a partnership between community, bus company and school district is essential. All students will review these guidelines at school, and we encourage parents to reinforce the importance of these guidelines by reviewing them at home. School district policies 707 through 711 govern the operation of transportation services within MAPS.

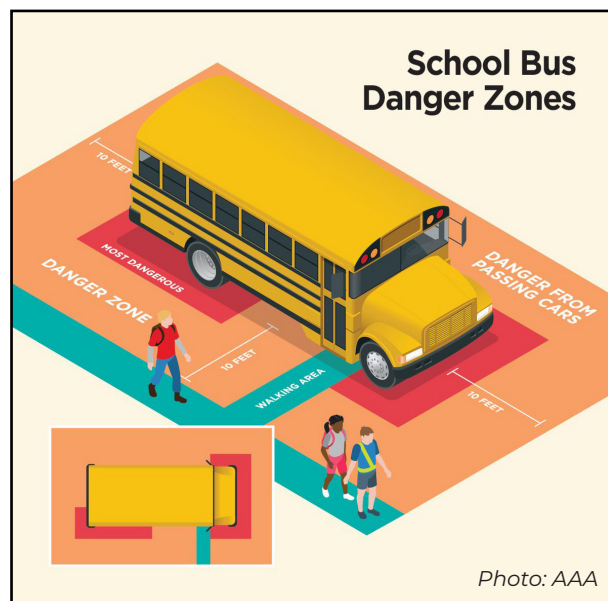
BUS RULES AND REGULATIONS

WAITING FOR THE BUS

1. Arrive to your bus stop 10 min before your pick up time.
2. Respect the property of others.
3. Stand in your designated waiting area.
4. Avoid private property, the street and snow banks in the winter.

GETTING ON THE BUS

1. Maintain visibility with the bus driver- look for hand signals when it's safe to load the bus. Avoid the danger zone.
2. As the bus approaches students should line up, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and for the doors to open before loading.
3. Have your bus pass visible for the driver and use the handrail up the steps.
4. Seating safety:
 - Seats are designed to hold up to 3 people.
 - Riders should find a seat and move to inside to make space of on coming riders.



RIDING THE BUS

1. Remain seated while the bus is in motion facing forward.
2. Keep heads, hands and feet inside the bus.
3. Keep the aisle clear.
4. Save food and drink for when you are not riding the bus-water is acceptable.
5. Keep personal items secure by storing them properly.
6. Use of electronic items:
 - Keep a low volume or use headphones.
7. Demonstrate Respectful Habits:
 - Use appropriate language.
 - Respect the space and property of other riders.
 - Avoid bringing dangerous items/ substances on the bus.
 - Avoid Physical / Verbal altercations.
 - Avoid tampering with the bus equipment and damaging items on the bus.
8. Be AWARE:
 - In a case of an emergency riders need to pay close attention to instructions from the driver.
 - Riders should report any concerns to the driver.

LEAVING THE BUS

1. Stay seated until the bus comes to a stop.
2. Bus will be unloaded from the front of the bus to the back.
 - Student should wait safely in the aisle.
 - Leave the bus area clean.
3. Use the handrail and walk when exiting from the bus.
4. Maintain visibility with the driver-avoid the danger zone when walking to your final destination.



MAINTAINING A SAFE AND POSITIVE RIDING ENVIRONMENT

Riding the school bus is a privilege and students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding school buses as are expected on school property or at school activities, functions or events.

- All school district rules/policies are in effect while students (public, non-public and charter) are riding the bus or are at the bus stop. A complete description of these rules are located in the student handbooks.
- Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will apply to all regular and extra curricular routes.
- In most circumstances, consequences are progressive. Based on the severity of a student's conduct, more serious consequences can be imposed at any time. Administrative discretion and judgment will apply to all decisions involving consequences.
- Consequences can range from a verbal warning to the loss of bus privileges and expulsion from school.
- Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the Superintendent or designees. Consequences will be determined with collaboration and communication between the bus company and school administration.
- It is the responsibility of the bus driver to report unacceptable behavior to their supervisor, who will then report the misconduct to the school and the MAPS Transportation Office.
- Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

NOTE: Parents/guardians are responsible for the discipline of students at the bus stop. It is NOT the responsibility of the bus operators or school district. Severe problems should be directed to law enforcement.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY

Upon the request of a parent or guardian, resident elementary students who reside one mile or more from the school, and middle school and senior high school students who reside two miles or more from school, shall be eligible for transportation to and from school.

REGISTRATION

Students eligible for transportation will need to complete an annual Transportation Registration Form. These forms are available at Central Registration or in the office of each school building. These forms will also be distributed annually by the Mankato Area Public Schools Transportation office.

BUS STOPS

Bus stops are determined by need and location of bus riders and may change from year to year. Students must use the stop assigned unless another stop is approved by the Transportation Office. Bus drivers are NOT required to stop if there are no students waiting, so it is important for students to be at the stop a few minutes before the bus time, waiting to board the bus.

BUS ASSIGNMENTS

We are required by the state to transport eligible children to and from home or child care. Consistency of routes helps ensure safety and avoids overcrowding. Students will NOT be allowed to ride with friends for any reason. Temporary transportation MAY be arranged ONLY for an emergency situation. Parents/Guardians MUST call the Bus Company that serves their area to make prior arrangements. Transportation will NOT be provided for students to attend parties, meetings, medical appointments, or going home with friends, etc.

BUS PASSES

All students being transported on a regular bus (not a mini bus) MUST have a bus pass for their scheduled bus in their possession in order to ride a bus to and from school. Students must register each school year for a pass. Late and new student registrations need to allow at least five business days for processing and must receive their bus pass before accessing bus services.

REPLACING BUS PASS

- If a pass is damaged and no longer legible, the student's school office will replace it.
- If a pass is lost, please notify the bus company. The charge is \$5 for a replacement pass.
- Students without a pass will receive three verbal warnings at which time a pink slip will be given.
- After five verbal warnings, students will be issued an Incident Report, parents will be called & students will be denied transportation until payment is received for a new pass.

CHILD CARE

Transportation can be provided to and/or from child care if the following circumstances exist:

- The child care is in the attendance area of the school your child attends.
- The child care address is more than one mile from school.
- Only students in grades K-5 will be eligible for Day Care Transportation.
- Only one home per pupil can be designated for transportation purposes and transfers between bus companies will NOT be allowed.

Requests for transportation to/from child care can be made by completing a Daycare Transportation Form located on the Mankato Area Public Schools website under Transportation Services. The form is also available for pick up at all Mankato Area Elementary Schools.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Update and verify a change of address at Mankato Area Public Schools' Central Registration, Intergovernmental Center, IO Civic Center Plaza, Mankato. For more information call 507-207-4037.

ROUTE TIMING

When school opens in the fall, inconsistencies in route timings are often experienced. Fortunately, the weather during that time of the year is usually quite pleasant and we appreciate your patience as drivers get familiar with their routes and riders. As the year progresses the times should be consistent, but it is still a good idea to be at the bus stop no more than 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled pick-up time. The weather, traffic and students not riding can affect the timing.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, some route adjustments may be necessary. On mornings when schools are closed due to weather, every effort will be made to inform local radio & TV stations by 6 AM. If schools are dismissed early, radio/ TV announcements will also keep you informed. For all the latest information in school closings related to weather call 507-386-4777.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If your child has any medical conditions (i.e., subject to seizures, on daily medications, severe allergies) which may be a problem during the bus ride, please call the Transportation Office to request a medical form. This completed form will be carried on the bus(es) your child rides and used if a medical emergency occurs.

VIDEOTAPING

School buses are equipped to videotape bus riders. A number of cameras will be rotated throughout the buses. Students and bus drivers will not be aware that a camera is on their bus. The video cameras will be used to help monitor the school bus riders to discourage and detect unsafe and inappropriate behavior. Cameras will also be used as a tool for driver training and safety education for children.

ATTENDANCE EXCEPTIONS

Students with exceptions to attend a school other than the one they are assigned to are NOT eligible for transportation unless they are using an eligible child care address (K-5).

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Buses are to be used to transport students only; no parents/guardians will be allowed to ride.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Contact the Bus Operator that serves your area.

- **Palmer Bus Service Inc.** 507-386-0210
- **Yaeger Bus Service Inc.** 507-345-5470

Contact Mankato Area Public Schools Transportation Office at 507-387-5949 or 507-387-3224.

