

Douglas County School System Transportation Safety Program

Georgia's DFCS Guidelines For Leaving a Child Without Adult Supervision

(<http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov>)

Children 8 years old and younger should never be left alone, even for brief periods of time.

Children between the ages of 9 and 12, based on level of maturity, can be left home alone for brief periods of time.

Children 13 and older can generally be left as babysitters, with the exception of children in foster care. It is not recommended, however, that 13 year olds baby sit infants, small children and children that require special attention due to medical conditions.

With these guidelines in mind and for the safety of our children, the Douglas County School System along with the Douglas County School Transportation Department will be implementing a new procedure for all students **3rd** grade and below:

For all students in the 3rd grade and below, a parent must be present at the bus stop for the student to disembark the bus. If the student has a sibling on the bus that is in the 4th or 5th grade they will be allowed to disembark the bus with that sibling. If a parent, guardian, or parent/guardian designee is not present at the bus stop to receive their child or if they otherwise appear to have no appropriate supervision, the student will be taken back to their school of origin.

Parent/Bus Driver procedures:

Drivers must be able to see the parent/guardian so that proper identification can be made. This means that you have to be physically at the stop and out of your car. **(Photo Id may be required.)** Please be standing at the bus stop **five minutes prior to** the bus arrival time and note that the driver cannot release students other than at their designated bus stop. The drivers are not allowed to leave their bus so the parent/guardian will have to come to the door of the bus to present proper ID.

No Parent/guardian will be allowed to board the bus for any reason.

If a Parent/guardian chooses to option out of this procedure, you must fill out the box below:

Authorization for student to exit bus without supervision

I am further requesting that my child, _____ be allowed to exit the bus at their designated bus stop without a parent/guardian, sibling or an authorized adult at the stop.

I understand that this request goes against DFCS recommended guidelines and hereby absolve the DCSS personnel of any and all responsibility for my child once they exit the bus.

Please return the signed form to the school to be kept on file. Thank you

Parent/Guardian Name: *(please print)* _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____