

## **RTD BUS POLICY**

The Families at Roots and Wings Community School have a unique agreement with the RTD Blue Bus. The Blue Bus provides transport services to students as if they were the general public. **The Blue Bus is not a school bus**, and RWCS has no say over the rules and guidelines it establishes. This relationship is essential as it allows a diverse group of students to attend our school, not just those fortunate enough to have parents in positions to carpool the distance.

### **Intro:**

All students must follow the following guidelines, or they may be removed by the RWCS-required Bus Chaperone or the RTD Driver for a period ranging from one day to permanently, depending on the severity of the infraction AND how many warnings the student has received (see Student Conduct section below). Students who misbehave or ignore what the chaperone asks are subject to the consequences outlined below in “**Student Conduct on Blue Bus.**”

### **THESE ARE BLUE BUS GUIDELINE, which the families of RWCS support:**

**PUNCTUALITY:** Students must be ready to board the bus on time and will be dropped off as normal adult riders. The bus will not wait for students nor provide supervision at the pick-up or drop-off as PARENTS are responsible for this time. **The bus will leave its stop according to the published schedule**—it does not wait for anyone at stops, and it is the passenger's responsibility to be at the stop on time. Our students will not receive special treatment, nor will the bus stop for late families.

**SAFETY AND COURTESY:** Students are treated as community members. All riders must wear seat belts and remain seated while the bus moves. All riders must use quiet voices while on the bus. This is not only a safety issue but also an issue of common courtesy and respect to the other passengers and the driver. Polite language is expected of students, and no cursing is allowed.

**RESPECT OF BUS PROPERTY:** Students must keep their feet off the seats while riding and using the upper luggage racks. Food and drink are not allowed on the bus.

To manage the bus system, the families of RWCS support the family-organized bus policy, which includes the following tenets:

**COMMUNICATION:** RWCS will include information about the bus and letters from the liaison or RTD in our weekly publications to support parents. All bus communication should go through the bus liaison at the request of RTD or the school.

### **To and From the Bus:**

RWCS meets the students at the bus in the morning as a courtesy. Per the school's charter, the school has no official role in transportation. This is not part of the school day, nor does the school assume responsibility for students until they arrive on campus. We encourage parents to assist with supervision. Please let us know if you can help as a bus chaperone.

School rules apply from when the students arrive at the bus stop until they reach school, and on the bus, they walk and ride in the afternoon. Students must listen to the Bus Chaperone, bus driver, and RWCS staff members. They are to follow the norms and other rules and guidelines created to manage drop-off/pick-up in an organized and safe way.

Students should adhere to the physical boundaries at the bus stop and not wander off or play on nearby structures. There is no throwing of rocks, playing with balls, or anything that could fly/roll into the highway. Families know that one adult is on duty in the morning and afternoon for pick-up and drop-off. Families should also understand the inherent risk of walking to and from the bus stops and waiting for the bus. All parents using the bus service agree to discuss rules and safety with their students and to support judgment calls made by staff or bus chaperones.

### **BUS STOP RULES/INFORMATION**

In addition to all school rules, the following specific guidelines apply:

On the way to the bus, students will remain **behind** the lead duty person. There should not be any students in front of the adults.

Students will use the trail to get to school for the main part of the year. In case of heavy snow or by the call of the duty person, students may be asked to use the road. If so, students must walk on the side of the road, at most three abreast. They do not leave the road during their walk. They will follow the duty person's direction on the road, crossing only when given permission. They will cross in groups as determined by the duty person.

There is no skateboarding, biking, etc., to and from the bus.

Students will wait in an orderly manner **in line** for bus pickup.

The Chaperone and Staff member will depart the school with adequate time for students to walk from the school downhill to the bus stop. Families are responsible for picking up their child at the bus stop, arriving by the scheduled pick-up time, and coming early is recommended. If you are late and your child is under 12 years of age\*, they will continue on the bus to the last stop at the courthouse. If your child is 12 or older\* they will be left at the designated bus stop. If the Bus Chaperone has to wait with your child for more than 15 minutes at the courthouse (last stop), and you have yet to contact them to arrange a pickup, they will call the police to pick up your child until you arrive.

***\*Children 12 or older are allowed to be left alone at bus stops, but RTD policy does not allow an older sibling to be a guardian for a younger sibling.***

## Student Conduct on Blue Bus

Bus Chaperones have the same authority as RWCS Staff while riding or walking with students. Students will respect the authority of the Bus Chaperones and follow their directions. If a student misbehaves or ignores what the chaperone asks, the following consequences are now in place.

### **Steps:**

- 1) Verbal warning, phone call home (if infraction is major, may skip to step 2, as appropriate)
- 2) 1-day bus suspension
- 3) 3-day bus suspension
- 4) 1-week bus suspension
- 5) semester-long bus suspension

### **For Chaperones**

We will set up a Group Text that includes Chaperones and Teaching Staff for when a student doesn't acquiesce to the request for a student's problematic behavior to stop. This will allow all Chaperones and RWCS Staff to track student behavior and know what level students are at. Chaperones will send this text, and the classroom teacher will meet with the student and make the phone call home. This ensures that if the issue occurs on the afternoon ride, the student receives the consequences the next school day.

I have read and agree to the above RTD Bus Policy and Student Conduct and Consequences.

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Date

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Signature of Student

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Date

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Signature of Student

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Date