

NYC Children with and without disabilities need a
School Bus Bill of Rights

We call on Mayor Bloomberg, Chancellor Walcott, and the Office of Pupil Transportation under Deputy Chancellor Grimm to:

- 1. Plan ahead, prevent chaos—stop late summer layoffs!**
Any vehicles that are underutilized on the first day of school will fill up soon enough, so get them ready and rolling with a full complement of workers.
- 2. Respect educational mandates for adequate supervision**
On special education vehicles, student-to-adult ratios and the range of grades/disabilities grouped together should align with the limits that apply during the school day.
- 3. Stop creating route schedules that make disabled children consistently miss lessons in the morning and/or afternoon.**
- 4. Respect physical and neurological needs of the children**
 - a) Enforce regulations on limited time travel and air conditioning.
 - b) Minimize unsolicited changes in routine.
- 5. Simplify bus itineraries—limit the number of schools or dismissal times on each route.**
- 6. Safety above all!**
 - a) Equip wheelchair vehicles with harnesses and headrests.
 - b) Restore general education busing through 8th grade in Staten Island.
 - c) Enforce mandate for schools to work with drivers and escorts to provide bus evacuation drills twice a year.
 - d) Inspect for safety matters, not excuses to fine and harass bus workers.
 - e) Study the feasibility of snow chains and other bad-weather needs.
- 7. Proactively inform parents and special educators on how to secure transportation rights on the Individualized Education Program**
- 8. Improve communication about emergency and long-term changes**
- 9. Empower a panel of elected representatives of organizations of parents, educators and bus workers to either approve or renegotiate OPT plans for achieving the above goals and more**
- 10. Maintain an experienced, skilled and dedicated transportation workforce: Support the EPP (Mollen Agreement) bill in Albany**

To endorse this effort, contact Parents to Improve School Transportation at

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