



## BULLYFREE BUS

Consider this information to keep your Bus Bully Free!

# Open-Mindedness

**OPEN-MINDEDNESS** is having or showing a mind open to new arguments or ideas, especially when we might show some resistance to them. An OPEN-MINDED person is willing to listen to and consider different suggestions.

Depending on various influences, prior knowledge, and the diversity of the population of your community, youngsters on your bus may or may not be open-minded to the ideas and beliefs, dress, customs, and day-to-day practices of other children who ride to school with them. Riding the bus together is an opportunity for you—and your young passengers—to interact open-mindedly, respectfully, and without discrimination or stereotyping, with other young people of their age who may appear very different from them. Turn on your “listening ears” and monitor conversations to ensure that the time spent on your bus empowers children to experience and create a global community within your own. In doing so, students will develop self-esteem for their own beliefs and learn to accept, tolerate, or even appreciate the lives and values of others. You are also in a position each day to create rewarding, teachable moments and impromptu life lessons by redirecting any prejudicial or negative comments. Your intervention will afford students with the opportunity to practice tolerance and develop respect for people who are different from them. Have a great week and enjoy your **Bully Free Bus!**