

— FORT WORTH ISD —
**BUS RIDER
SAFETY GUIDE**
— FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS —

– The Rules of the Ride –

Riding a school bus is a privilege provided by the Fort Worth Independent School District and should be treated as such.

The Transportation Department strives to support academic achievement by providing a positive experience for students during their morning and afternoon rides to and from school. This guide will help students and parents/guardians to understand the responsibilities involved with riding the school bus to ensure safety and reliability. Parents/guardians are encouraged to read and discuss this important information with their child.

Misconduct on the bus or at the bus stop may result in a student losing this privilege.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION? (Refer to Board Policy CNA)

To be eligible for transportation, a student must live within the boundaries of the Fort Worth ISD and meet one of the following requirements:

1. Student who lives two miles or more from the assigned school, including a special interest school, to which the student has applied and has been accepted
2. Special education student, age 3 through 21, whose disabilities prevent the use of regular transportation

Refer to Board Policy CNA for more details on eligibility.

Note: For the safety of students, transportation is not provided for Pre-K students.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES*

1. Obey the instructions of the bus driver.
2. Board and leave the bus at designated stops only.
3. Do not ask the driver for permission to ride home on another bus with a friend.

** The bus driver's primary attention must be focused on safely transporting students. In order to accomplish this, Fort Worth ISD has incorporated a set of safety rules that drivers are expected to follow.*

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

WAITING FOR THE BUS

1. Be at your bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. The driver is not allowed to wait or honk. Allow 10 minutes after scheduled pick-up time before reporting a late bus.
2. Stand on the sidewalk or 10 feet back from the roadway while waiting for the bus.
3. Maintain proper behavior at the bus stop: No pushing, fighting, shoving or inappropriate language is allowed.
4. Show respect for private property and public property at the bus stop.
5. When the bus approaches, form a line and be prepared to load immediately.
6. Stand 10' clear of the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the door opens.
7. Make sure the driver can see you at all times.
8. If an article drops or rolls near or under the bus, do not go after it. If you need to retrieve it, ask the driver for help.
9. If you miss the bus, go home immediately. Parents should instruct their children on what to do if they miss the bus. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to school if a child misses the bus.

LOADING THE BUS

1. Do not push or shove.
2. Use the handrail and steps.
3. Use only the front door for entering and exiting. The emergency door and exit controls will only be used during supervised drills or actual emergencies.
4. You will be assigned a seat by the driver. Drivers may change seating assignments as needed.
5. Go to your seat. The bus will not move until all students are seated.

CONDUCT ON THE BUS

REMEMBER: Misconduct on the bus may result in a student not being allowed to ride on the bus.

1. Remain seated while the bus is moving.
2. Do not change seats.
3. Normal conversation is allowed. Any loud noises may distract the driver and create an unsafe condition.
4. Do not open windows without permission from the driver. Keep your arms and all other parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Do not throw any object inside or outside of the bus.

6. Do not mark, cut or scratch any part of the bus. Vandalism repair costs will be paid by the person who is responsible. Failure to reimburse the District will result in loss of riding privileges.
7. Students must keep books, packages, coats and all other objects out of the aisles.
8. Use of cell phones and ear pieces is prohibited.
9. Use of profane or vulgar language is prohibited.
10. Spitting is prohibited.
11. Eating, drinking, smoking or use of illegal substances is prohibited.
12. Use of radios is prohibited.
13. Sale or solicitation of any kind is prohibited.
14. Fighting, pushing and shoving are prohibited.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Do NOT bring the following items on the bus:

1. Tobacco.
2. Live animals or insects.
3. Glass containers.
4. Alcoholic beverages.
5. Weapons, explosive devices, harmful drugs or chemicals
6. Any object (musical instrument, shop project, etc.) too large for you to carry yourself.

GETTING OFF THE BUS

1. Stay seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
2. Use the handrail and take one step at a time when leaving the bus.
3. Wait for your turn to leave the bus. Pushing and crowding will only slow your exit and may cause an accident.
4. If you plan to get off at a different stop than the one in which you are assigned, you must have a signed note from your parent/guardian to give to the principal. The principal will sign off on the note if the request is acceptable, and you will give the note to the driver when you board the bus.
5. Stay clear of the bus when the engine is started. Do not chase or hang onto the bus.
6. If an article drops or rolls near or under the bus, do not go after it. Go to the door of the bus and ask the driver for help.

ACCIDENTS OR EMERGENCIES

1. Follow the driver's instructions.
2. If you must leave the bus, stay with your group.
3. The following procedures will be used for evacuation in an emergency situation:

- The student nearest the door will open the door, exit and hold the door open until all students have exited the bus.
- Evacuation will start with the seat closest to the door.
- Leave the bus in single file as quietly as possible.
- Once outside the bus, follow the driver's instructions completely.
- Students must stay with their group until released by the driver or safety officer.

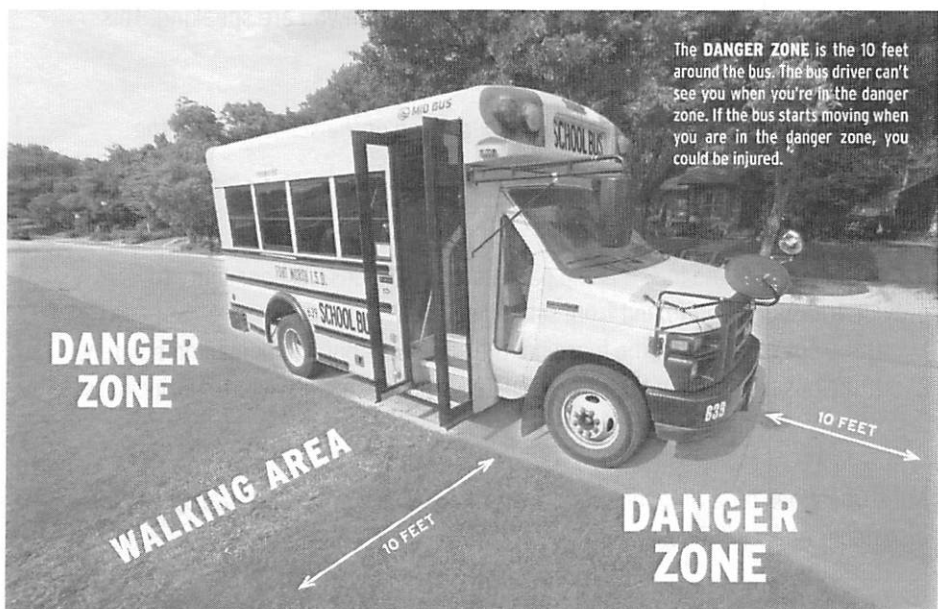
GOING STRAIGHT HOME

1. Go straight home or to your designated caregiver as soon as you get off the bus. Do not go anywhere else without your parent's or guardian's permission.
2. The District's custodial responsibility ends when you leave the bus. Your parents/guardians are now responsible for your behavior/actions.

CROSSING THE STREET OR HIGHWAY

1. When crossing the street or highway, always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
2. Check for traffic in both directions and WALK—do not run—across the road.
3. Never cross the road behind the bus.
4. CAUTION! Be alert for vehicles that do not stop when the bus is loading or unloading.

REMEMBER: Cross all streets at intersections. Obey all traffic signals and signs on your way home.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

- Review and discuss the student responsibilities listed above with your child.
- Remind your child that the driver is the person of authority on the bus and is to be respected.
- Make sure that your child arrives at the bus stop five minutes before the designated time.
- Make sure that your child is not at the bus stop too early.
- Provide supervision for your child going to and from the bus stop and at the stop, if necessary.
- Make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.
- Determine if the weather is too severe for your child to wait for the bus.
- Appear in person with your child if a conference is requested by the principal.
- Provide transportation for your child if the privilege of riding the bus is withdrawn.
- Ensure that payment is made for any damage caused by your child.
- Instruct your children on procedures to follow if they miss the bus.
- After school, if your child does not arrive at home during the normal time frame, please call the Fort Worth ISD Transportation Dispatch office at 817.815.7910 for information and assistance.
- If you contact the Fort Worth ISD Transportation Department by phone, please request the name of the person with whom you are speaking. This will help expedite follow-up contacts if necessary.

Note: Bus routes are available before the beginning of the school year in the school office.

MISSED BUS

If a student misses the bus, it is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide transportation to and from school.

1. If the bus is missed in the morning, the student should go home immediately.
2. If the bus is missed in the afternoon, the student should go to the principal's office.

Note: Questions regarding missing the bus may be directed to the Transportation dispatcher at 817.815.7910.

BAD WEATHER OR OTHER EMERGENCIES

If school is in session, the buses will run. School will be dismissed upon instruction from the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. Parents are encouraged to visit the Fort Worth ISD website: www.fwisd.org and/or the "Know The Plan" website: www.fwisd.org/plan for important information pertaining to weather or other emergencies.

Area TV and radio stations will be asked to announce school closings or any changes in openings or dismissals. In case of local flooding or inclement weather, students will not be dismissed from school unless the principal determines that it is safe for children to go home.

ARTICLES LEFT ON THE BUS

Drivers are NOT responsible for a student's property. Articles left on the bus will be turned in to the school office.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS

1. Bus rider rules apply to all school-sponsored events.
2. Discipline is the responsibility of the building principal and the trip sponsor/ chaperone.
3. Strict loading and unloading time schedules will be followed.

DISCIPLINE

The driver is responsible for discipline on the bus. Misconduct is reported to the principal, who assumes responsibility for taking proper disciplinary actions.

Thank you for reviewing this information with your children.

We value the opportunity to provide transportation to Fort Worth ISD students.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clark Field (main lot): 817.815.7910

North Side Lot: 817.815.7980

West Side Lot: 817.815.7970

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER: 817.815.7910



Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.fwisd.org



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KNOW THE PLAN →

1 These materials were developed under a Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) grant awarded by the US Department of Education.