

FREDERICKSBURG INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bus Rider's Responsibilities

PRIOR TO LOADING: (at Bus Stop or School)

1. Be careful when approaching bus stop areas.
2. Be on time at the designated bus stop area. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to have the student ready to board the bus at the appropriate time so the schedule can be maintained. Students need to be at the designated bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the bus arrives. Drivers will not wait or sound the horn for students who are habitually late.
3. Stay off the roads at all times while waiting for the bus. Bus riders shall conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting for the bus.
4. Wait for the bus on the right side of the road (loading side of an approaching bus) in an orderly single line, at least six feet away from where the bus will stop. (Unless instructed otherwise by the bus driver.)
5. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door is opened before approaching the bus.

RIDING ON THE BUS:

1. Bus riders are expected to be courteous to fellow students and the bus driver. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct is to be observed on the bus at all times. Students need to follow instructions the first time they are given.
2. Assist in keeping the bus safe, litter-free, and sanitary at all times.
3. Students need to refrain from any conduct that distracts the bus driver to the point that the action creates a hazard. Remember that loud talking and laughing or unnecessary confusion diverts the bus driver's attention. **NOTE:** The bus driver is allowed to stop the bus and safely park it until excessive noise, etc. ceases.
4. Bus riders shall NEVER tamper with the bus or any of its equipment. The emergency door and/or windows shall be opened and used for entering and/or exiting ONLY during supervised drills or during an actual emergency.
5. Treat school bus equipment as you would valuable furniture in your home, such as keeping your feet off the seats, not defacing (writing on, cutting) any part of the bus.
6. Keep all parts of your body (hands, head, hair, etc.) and all objects inside the bus at all times after boarding the bus.
7. Keep feet and legs as well as books and all other objects (packages, coats, etc.) out of the aisle. Back packs, duffel bags, band instruments, shop projects, athletic equipment, etc., should not be placed in the bus driver's compartment. **NOTE:** If any object cannot be placed under the student's seat or held on the student's lap, it will not be allowed to be transported on the bus.
8. Upon entering the bus, students must proceed immediately to their seat.
9. Bus riders are not permitted to leave their seat while the bus is in motion. Upon arrival at school or at their bus stop, students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop. Changing seats during the route is prohibited unless so directed by the bus driver.
10. Hitting, pushing, scuffling or fighting is not permitted around or on the bus.
11. Throwing anything inside the bus or out of the bus window will not be permitted.
12. Food and drink are not to be consumed on the bus. **EXCEPTION:** Food and drink on extra-curricular trips, when approved by the sponsor(s). Sponsors will be responsible for collecting all trash from bus.
13. The bus is an extension of the classroom; therefore, items prohibited by FISD in the classroom are prohibited on the bus.
14. Cursing, swearing, using profane language or rude gestures, or maliciously teasing anyone will not be tolerated. Graffiti will not be tolerated.
15. Live animals, insects, etc., may not be brought or taken home on the school bus without the written permission of the bus driver, transportation supervisor, or the school principal.
16. Take all books, lunches and other articles off the bus when departing unless there is an emergency situation.
17. In case of any emergency or mechanical problem, students are to remain on the bus unless otherwise instructed by the bus driver.
18. Bus drivers, as well as the administration and transportation departments, may formulate and/or recommend other rules and regulations to be enforced that are reasonable and prudent and which are not specifically stated elsewhere.
19. All school buses are equipped with an Audio-Video Monitoring System.

DEPARTING THE BUS:

1. Students living on the right side of the roadway will depart the bus in an orderly fashion, staying clear of the front and side of the bus (at least 3 steps), and moving to where the bus driver can plainly see the student depart the bus.
2. Students living on the left side of the roadway will depart the bus in an orderly fashion, and shall move to a point 10-15 feet in front of the bus (where they can be seen by the bus driver and the bus driver can see their shoes). The student shall begin to cross the roadway, stopping even with the left fender/left side of the bus, carefully looking in both directions to see if it is safe to continue all the way across, and then watching for the bus driver to signal them across.
3. Students should be alert to danger signals from the bus driver. **NOTE:** A danger signal is the blowing of the bus horn.
4. Students should not cross a street or roadway behind the school bus.
5. The driver will not discharge riders at places other than the regular school bus stop or at school. No exceptions will be made without prior written instructions which have been approved by the transportation supervisor.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

Bus Safety Reports will be hand-delivered the same day or the following morning to the school principal's office. Any violation of the above Rules and Regulations will be dealt with per the following steps:

- Step 1:** A Bus Safety Report will be submitted by the bus driver to the transportation office where it will be recorded and then turned over to the school principal for disciplinary action. **NOTE:** A warning will be issued.
- Step 2:** The submission of a second Bus Safety Report will result in a one-week suspension of riding privileges with the parent(s) or guardian(s) notified of the suspension within one week.
- Step 3:** The third submission of a Bus Safety Report shall result in suspension of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the semester. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified of this final action. Notification to all parties within one week.
- Step 4:** Fourth Bus Safety Report. Suspension will be for the remainder of the school year.

NOTE: A loss of bus riding privileges does not constitute grounds for an excused absence from school.

The step procedures established above for disciplinary action may be modified only when the disciplinary action set forth seems to be unwarranted for the incident reported, or the incident reported is of such a severe nature that stronger disciplinary steps must be taken by the school principal, assistant principal, or his/her designee. Same-day response should be by school principal if possible.

NOTE: The principal has the option of repeating a step or advancing a step or steps depending upon the severity of an incident. Written notification from the principal to the transportation department and the bus driver shall take no longer than one week from the time of the incident reported.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS:

1. The above-listed Rules and Regulations shall apply to any trip under school sponsorship.
2. Students shall respect the wishes of the sponsor appointed by the school.

EMERGENCY OR HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS:

1. Safety precautions will be exercised in school bus operations at all times. If at any time the bus driver is uncertain about the road, vehicle conditions or other safety factors, the bus driver will park the vehicle in a safe location until safe operating conditions are assured.
2. If conditions will not permit the delivery of the student to his or her authorized stop, that student will be returned to the transportation department located at 240 Billie Dr. behind the High School Football Stadium.
3. In case of bad weather, the start of school may be delayed, school cancelled, or students released early. On mornings when hazardous weather conditions exist, please listen to the following radio stations:

KNAF 910 AM
KFAN 107.9

TV stations in Austin and Kerrville may also be notified.

GENERAL REGULATIONS:

Only students enrolled in the Fredericksburg Independent School District are permitted to ride on school buses. **EXCEPTION:** Parent(s) or guardian(s) and children on trips, but at no other times.

Riding a school bus in the State of Texas is a privilege and not a right. Failure to comply with the Bus Rules and Regulations will result in a forfeiture of that privilege. Therefore, we must have the utmost cooperation in every detail.