

China Spring ISD School Bus Rules

2022 – 2023

The following rules apply to regular bus routes, field trips, and extracurricular trips:

1. The bus driver is in absolute charge at all times.
2. The conduct of the students on the bus is expected to be the same as that demanded in the classroom. Any conduct that is distracting to the driver will not be tolerated.
3. Students must be at the bus stop on time. Buses will not wait on riders.
4. Students waiting for the bus to arrive must stand back from the roadway to be protected from traffic and, if necessary, so that the bus may pull off the roadway to load the students.
5. Students must show respect for the rights of other's property while on the bus and at the bus stop locations.
6. Students must remain seated at all times while the bus is moving. Students cannot change seats at any time during the bus route without the permission of the bus driver. With the driver's permission, students may only change seats when the bus has stopped.
7. For the protection of everyone on the bus, all students must be seated on their bottom. Standing or riding on the knees is not allowed.
8. Students must not place anything outside of the bus window including arms, hands, head, and any other objects.
9. Each student is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the bus. Students who discard trash on the bus must pick it up and place it in the bus's trash can.
10. Students must not eat or drink on the bus at any time. Open containers or packages containing food or drink must be discarded before boarding the bus.
11. Profanity is unacceptable on the bus.
12. Any act of vandalism which results in the defacing or other damage to a school bus will result in the parents being required to pay for the damage(s). The student's riding privilege will be revoked until the parent pays for the damage(s).
13. Tobacco in any form is not allowed on the bus.
14. Pens and pencils must not be carried on the bus by hand. These items must be in a book bag or a notebook while on the bus.
15. Students must never bring knives or any other sharp/cutting instrument onto the bus. If these items are discovered or displayed, they will be confiscated and given to the campus principal.
16. No items are allowed to be thrown on the bus or out of the bus window.
17. The rear emergency door of the bus must remain closed unless the driver directs a student to open it or unless an actual emergency occurs.
18. A student suspended from a regular bus route may ride the bus for field trips or extracurricular trips unless the student's behavior on the bus is poor during these trips.
19. Any severe rule infraction, such as fighting, may result in an immediate bus suspension. Other disciplinary action may also be taken by the student's campus principal.
20. Cameras may be used on school buses.
21. The district's code of conduct is in effect while riding the school bus.

Transportation

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal, however, may make an exception if the parent makes a written request that the student be released to the parent or to another family member designated by the parent.

Buses and other School Vehicles

The district makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school. The service is provided at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted at the school. Further information may be obtained by contacting Jim Ditto, Transportation Director, at 254-836-0679.

See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP).

Students are expected to assist district staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in district vehicles, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus, or school vehicle, in an orderly manner at the designated stop.
- Keep feet, books, instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus, school vehicle, or its equipment.
- Not place head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the bus or school vehicle.
- Not possess or use any form of tobacco on school buses or school vehicle.
- Observe all unusual classroom rules.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Fasten their seatbelts, if available.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus or school vehicle and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

When students ride in a district vehicle/passenger car, seat belts must be fastened at all times.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; bus-riding privileges may be suspended.

Consequences for Violating Bus Rules

Students are under the Student Code of Conduct when they are on any school transportation. Any student who violates that code or the established rules of conduct while on school transportation may be denied transportation services and will be disciplined. A conference with the principal, the student, the transportation director, and the parent(s) may be required. The principal may suspend the student's bus riding privileges. If so, the parents will be notified prior to the time the suspension takes effect.

Consequences for minor offences while riding a bus may include but are not limited to the following:

- **First Offense** – Bus conduct report will be submitted to student and parent.
- **Second Offense** – A bus conduct report will be submitted and the student is suspended from the bus for one day to 1 week (depending on the severity of the offense). The Transportation Director will notify the driver of the current status of the student.
- **Third Offense** – Same as second offense except student may be suspended for 1 week to 6 weeks (depending on the severity of the offense).
- **Fourth Offense** – Same as second offense except student may be suspended up to the end of the semester. Any additional bus referrals could result in the student's bus privileges being denied for the school year.
- In the case of **serious misconduct** that endangers the safety of other passengers or the driver, the driver has the authority in an emergency to put the student off the bus or to call for law enforcement assistance; the principal and parents will be notified of the situation as soon as possible. The student will not be allowed to ride the bus until a conference involving all persons listed above has been held.
- Disciplinary sanctions and changes in transportation for a student with a disability will be made in accordance with the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or other individually designed program.