



DALLAS ISD BUS RIDER

Safety Guide
For Students and Parents

DALLAS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Student Transportation
Services

Dallas ISD Student Transportation Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dallas ISD is committed to the safety of each of our student bus riders. With nearly 1000 buses in our fleet, we take the transportation of our students with great responsibility. After all, they are our most precious cargo.



Riding a school bus is a privilege provided by the Dallas Independent School District. The Student Transportation Services Department pursues customer service excellence by providing safe, efficient, and timely transportation to promote educational opportunities for all Dallas ISD students.

Transportation of students is conducted by the District or other appropriate transportation providers. Students in the District are transported under the classifications listed below:

- All magnet schools, including Vanguard and magnet Montessori elementary schools, Academy and magnet Montessori middle schools, magnet high schools, and Skyline Career Development Centers.
- Students living more than two miles from their assigned school attendance zone.
- Emergency transportation.
- Special education.
- Blind and orthopedically disabled.
- Regional Day School Program for the deaf.
- Field trips
- Activity buses for athletic teams, bands, and school-related clubs and organizations.
- Early arrivals/late departures.
- Designated Early College and New Tech high schools.
- Innovation schools
- Transformation schools
- Accelerating Campus Excellence schools

ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria shall be used in determining the eligibility of students for foundation school program transportation purposes and the approval of bus routes: The student must reside in the attendance area, as designated by the Board, of the school he or she attends and must live two or more miles from this school as measured by the nearest practical route, unless he or she attends a school by reason of a court order. All approved bus routes must transport only eligible students and monitors approved by the District. Parents/ guardians and other non-district employees/ students are unable to ride the bus.

STUDENTS IN SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) does not require Local Education Agencies (LEA) / school districts to transport children with disabilities in separate vehicles, isolated from their peers. In fact, many children with



disabilities can receive the same transportation provided to non-disabled children, consistent with the least restrictive environment requirements in 34 CFR §§300.114 through 300.120.

Under IDEA, transportation is considered a “related service.” Related services are

provided to children with disabilities to assist them in benefiting from special education services.

Not all students with disabilities require special transportation. Some students with disabilities are able to ride the “regular” bus without any support, or with the support of a sibling or a neighborhood friend. It may be beneficial for your child to at least attempt this option with natural supports before automatically determining that special transportation is required.

All students with an IEP are not entitled to transportation. If transportation is requested for reasons not related to the child's disability, it is not a required related service under IDEA.

Least Restrictive Environment does apply to transportation considerations. A student should only be removed from a regular education transportation environment (i.e. the typical school bus) if required because of a disability. Some students need a specially equipped vehicle to provide safety, but the issue of considering LRE should always come into play when considering special transportation. If a student's ARD committee determines and documents in the IEP that the student requires transportation in order to receive FAPE, the LEA must provide it.

EARLY LEARNING AND PRE-K ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) and four (4) year old students are eligible to ride the bus: 1) If they attend their zoned school and live more than 2 miles away and 2) meet any exception that currently exists in policy.

Three (3) year old students attending half-day programs will only receive one-way transportation:

1. If attending the morning program, transportation will be provided to school from a designated stop; and
2. If attending the afternoon program (beginning mid-day), transportation will be provided from school to designated stop.



Eligible students may request transportation through their assigned campus. All Pre-K students must be escorted to and from their designated bus stop by the parent/guardian or other designee who is at least 18 years of age. If parent/guardian or designee is not present upon drop-off, the student will be returned to their assigned campus for parent/guardian pick-up. Upon the first incident, a phone call will be made by the campus administrator reminding them of their obligation. Subsequent incidents may result in the loss of transportation privileges.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

If at any time, the bus driver is uncertain about road or vehicle conditions, or other safety factors, the driver shall park the vehicle until safe conditions are assured.

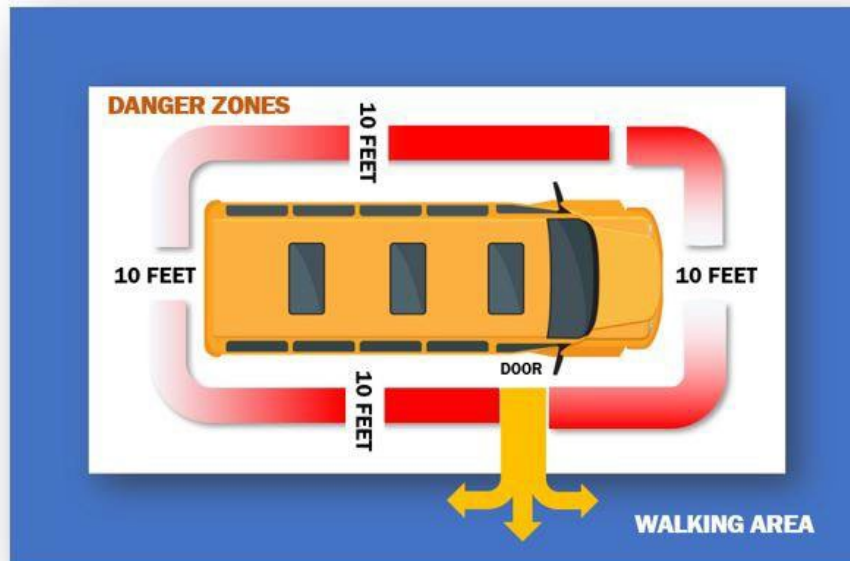


WAITING FOR THE BUS

- Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Respect property in the neighborhood.
- Wait at your designated stop in a safe place, at least 10 feet back from the side of the road.
- Stay out of the street and away from traffic.
- Stand 10 feet away until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens.
- Never run to or from the bus.
- Form one line as the bus approaches and be prepared to load the bus immediately.
- Make sure the driver can see you at all times.
- If something drops or rolls near or under the bus, do not attempt to get it.
- If you miss the bus, do not chase after it.
- Bus drivers can only allow students to board at designated stops.

DANGER ZONE

The danger zone is the area on all sides of the bus where students are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver (ten feet in front of the bus where the driver may be too high to see a child, ten feet on either side of the bus where a child may be in the driver's blind spot, and the area behind the school bus).



ENTERING THE BUS

- Hold the handrail as you get on the bus.
- Do not push or shove.
- Go directly to your assigned seat.
- Buckle your seatbelts
- Students may not sit in any location on the bus that is not designated as a seat.
- Do not sit on the floor of the bus.
- Remove your backpack, put it in your lap, and face forward.
- The bus will not move until all students are seated and seatbelts are fastened.

EXITING THE BUS

- Remain in the seat until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Ensure an orderly exit by allowing all passengers in the front exit before those in the back.
- Do not push or shove while on the bus or while exiting.
- Move out of the danger zone as quickly as possible.

CROSSING THE ROAD

- The driver will activate the warning flasher system and the stop sign as the bus comes to a stop.
- Cross the street only when the driver has indicated the way is safe. Walk 10 feet (10 giant steps) in front of the bus so the driver can see you.
- Never cross behind the bus.
- Look in all directions prior to crossing and use crosswalks where available.



ACCIDENTS OR EMERGENCIES

1. Follow the driver's instructions
2. You must stay with your group until released by the driver, safety officer, or police.

CONDUCT ON THE BUS

The purpose of school transportation is to safely transport students to and from school. The slightest distraction to the driver may have significant student safety actions. Appropriate student behavior is essential to the safe operation of the school bus. Therefore, school bus safety regulations must be followed.

Campus behavior coordinators are responsible for the students while on the bus and reserve the right to resolve discipline problems that occur between home and campus. It is the duty of the campus behavior coordinator, not the driver, to exclude a child from riding a school bus.

The campus behavior coordinator shall take steps to maintain acceptable student conduct while riding school buses, including the discretion to deny the privilege of school bus transportation.

This privilege may be temporarily denied or permanently revoked, if misconduct jeopardizes the safe operation of the school bus or the safety of students riding the bus.

Students should be aware that the bus is an extension of the school. Therefore, all Student Code of Conduct Offenses are subject to the same disciplinary actions while riding Dallas ISD provided transportation. Aside from compliance with the rules contained in the Student Code of Conduct Offenses Level I through IV, students are expected to follow bus rules.

BUS MISCONDUCT INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Failure to remain seated when directed or when the bus is moving;
- Failure to wear a seat belt when directed or when the bus is moving (if the bus is equipped with seat belts);
- Extending any part of a student's body, clothing, or any other article outside a bus window.
- Throwing, pitching or shooting objects inside or out of the bus; and
- Failure to remain in an assigned seat directed by the driver.

BUS MISCONDUCT:

- Eating/ Drinking on the bus
- Disrupting the driver with excessive/ unnecessary noise level while the bus is in operation.
- Riding unassigned bus / using unassigned stop
- Tampering with or using emergency exits without authorization.
- Vandalism to or destruction of the bus.

CONSEQUENCES:

1st Offense - The parent/ guardian of the student will be notified by Service Center personnel.

2nd Offense - The parent/ guardian of the student will be notified by the Campus Behavior Coordinator/ Administrator and will issue a warning against losing bus privileges.

3rd Offense - The student will lose bus privileges. The amount of time will be determined by the Campus Behavior Coordinator / Administrator based on the severity of the behavior incident and all offenses.

PARENTS/ GUARDIANS HELPFUL GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Statistically, riding the bus is the safest form of student transportation.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, students are nearly eight times safer riding in a school bus than with their own parents and guardians in cars.



As with all forms of transportation, dangers do exist. The greatest danger is not riding the bus but getting on or off the bus.

Parents and children should discuss bus safety prior to beginning ridership. Make sure students know their route number and bus stop information including directions for them on what to do in emergencies. For younger kids, write down their names, bus number, bus stop and where you may be reached. This information should be put inside the child's backpack.

MISSED BUS

1. If a student misses the bus, it is the parents' or guardians' responsibility to provide transportation to and from school.
2. Do not chase the bus or flag down the bus if the bus is missed. Proceed to the next stop if possible. Bus drivers can only board students at designated stops.
3. If the student misses the a.m. bus, the student should go home immediately and notify their parent/ guardian.
4. If the student misses the p.m. bus at dismissal, the student should go to the principal's office.
5. The bus will not go back to a bus stop or school to pick up a student who missed the bus.

SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Wind, rain, snow, extreme heat and extreme cold do not prevent buses from running, however students waiting for the bus in severe weather conditions should be dressed appropriately. Students who get soaking wet due to rain or snow will more than likely stay wet all day.



Remember that some weather conditions such as rain, cause traffic delays. This means students may be waiting at their designated bus stop in the elements for a longer than usual time frame.

Bus Stop TIPS

In the Winter:

- Dress children in several thin layers to keep dry and warm.
- Hand and feet warmers help children stay warm if they are in the elements longer than expected.

- Chose mittens over gloves as these allow skin to skin contact keeping hands warmer.

In the Summer During Severe Heat:

- Pack a small towel or washcloth that children can wet and rub on their forehead.
- Pack a baseball cap or other type of head covering designed to protect from the direct sunlight.
- Use sunscreen.

During Rain Storm

- It is not advisable to leave children at a bus stop during a rain storm due to potential lightning, however if there is no other option, please provide them with umbrellas / protective gear to keep them dry.
- Remember that cotton clothes and socks hold moisture and will make you feel colder if they get wet.

ARTICLES LEFT ON THE BUS

Drivers are not responsible for students' property, however, there are several methods which can be used to attempt to communicate with the bus driver about the missing or lost item left on the bus.

- Contact the School - let them know what was left behind and the school will contact the appropriate service center
- Submit a Let's Talk ticket found on the Student Transportation Services web page www.dallasisd.org/transportation
- Call 972-925-4BUS (972-925-4287)

COMMUNICATION WITH DRIVERS

Parents / Guardians shall not block the doorway of any bus for any reason nor should they board the bus. If there is a need to communicate with a driver, please utilize one of the different communication systems such as Let's Talk or by calling the main number 972-925-4BUS. Please have the route number available when communicating as this will help expedite finding the driver.

DISRUPTION OF TRANSPORTATION

Any person other than a primary or secondary grade student who intentionally disrupts, prevents, or interferes with the lawful transportation of students to and from school on a vehicle owned or operated by a district or to or from activities sponsored by a school on a vehicle owned and/or operated by a district shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. It is an exception to the application of the offense that, at the time the person engaged in the prohibited conduct, the person was younger than 12 years of age. Education Code 37.126

VIDEO CAMERAS

Most buses in the Dallas ISD are equipped with video cameras and are designed to provide a 360-degree view of the exterior of the bus as well as several locations within the bus. Due to the large amounts of video footage as well as limited storage capacity, videos are kept for only a period of 5 days.

Parents/ guardians may submit a Public Information Request within 5 days of an incident if they need a copy of a video. A redacted video will blur (redact) students for their privacy. Please note there may be a cost associated with obtaining a redacted video. Public information requests can be made [here](#).

Parents may also view video footage (within 5 days of the incident) at their school with an administrator present.

STAY CONNECTED

Use the following tools to stay connected with Student Transportation Services.

EDULOG PARENT PORTAL A notification system that informs parents of major bus delays through text messages, voice mails, and / or emails. This app also allows parent to view student's live bus location. Visit bit.ly/43GR6eF for a step-by-step guide.

LET'S TALK Allows our community to directly send us questions, comments, and feedback regarding Student Transportation Services.

972-925-4BUS

Thank you for reviewing this information with your children. We value the opportunity to be part of your child's educational experience.