



Durant ISD Transportation Handbook

From the Transportation Director

Riding the school bus—whether to and from school or for school-sponsored activities—is a **privilege** that carries important **responsibilities**. At Durant ISD, we believe our students are the district's most valuable asset. The Transportation Department is entrusted with the essential task of safely transporting these young individuals every day. Our mission is to ensure that students arrive at their destinations **safely and ready to learn**.

Transportation employees are key members of the educational team. We are committed to providing them with the training, leadership, and support necessary to perform their duties with professionalism and care.

While our drivers are trained to operate safely, they depend on **student cooperation** to maintain a secure environment. Bus safety is a **shared responsibility**, and misbehavior can create distractions that compromise safety. We ask for your partnership in reinforcing the importance of listening to drivers and following all bus rules.

This handbook includes information on bus services, student behavior expectations, safety procedures, and disciplinary guidelines. While not all policies and procedures are included, this resource will help you and your child better understand how transportation works—and why respectful, safe behavior is essential.

Thank you for reviewing this handbook. We look forward to working with you to ensure a safe, respectful, and successful school year.

Sincerely,
Jesse Bateman
Director of Transportation

Durant ISD Transportation Office

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Safety First

Safety is the **top priority** in all Durant ISD Transportation policies and procedures. The guidelines in this handbook are designed to maintain a **safe and secure** environment for every student who rides a school bus. These policies may be revised at any time to continue meeting our commitment to student safety.

Parent Responsibilities

Ensuring safe, efficient student transportation is a **shared effort**. Parents and guardians play a critical role in reinforcing rules and supporting disciplinary actions. Your cooperation helps create a safe, respectful environment for all riders.

Parents/Guardians are expected to:

1. **Ensure Punctuality**
Have your child at the bus stop at least **five (5) minutes** before the scheduled arrival.
Dress them appropriately for the weather.
 2. **Supervise at the Bus Stop**
Monitor your child to and from the stop, and while they are waiting.
 3. **Prepare Your Child for the Bus**
Provide a backpack or bag to free their hands for balance and handrail use.
 4. **Provide Transportation for Bulky Items**
Parents/Guardians are responsible for transporting **bulky, oversized, or otherwise unsafe items** that cannot be safely carried or stored on the bus.
 5. **Teach Your Child Basic Information**
Make sure your child knows their **address, phone number, and bus number**.
 6. **Report Safety Concerns**
Notify the Transportation Department if you observe **unsafe or illegal behavior** involving a school bus or bus stop.
 7. **Support Behavior Expectations**
Hold your child accountable for their conduct at the bus stop and on the bus.
If privileges are suspended, families must arrange alternate transportation.
 8. **Make sure your Child Is Visible**
The bus **will not stop** unless your child is **visible and waiting** at the designated stop.
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Student Responsibilities

Before the Bus Arrives

- Be at the stop at least **5 minutes early**.
- Wait **ten feet back** from the road until the bus fully stops.
- Form a **single line** and board calmly—no pushing or shoving.
- Use the **handrail** when boarding or exiting.
- Go straight to your seat and **remain seated**.
- Keep belongings in your backpack.
If something drops near or under the bus, **tell the driver**—do not retrieve it yourself.

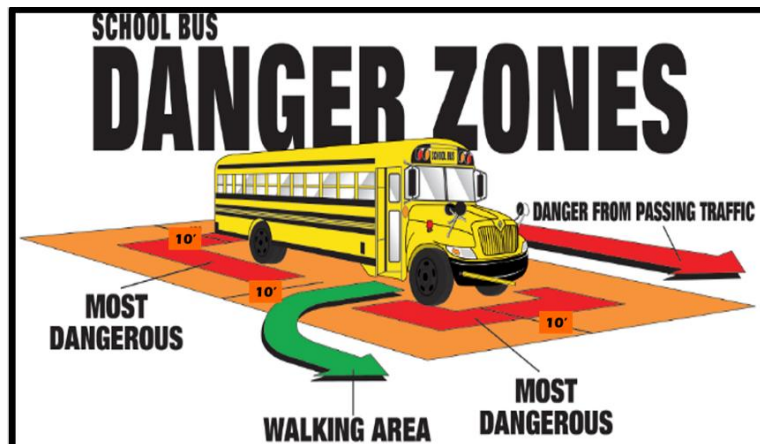
While on the Bus

1. Keep voices **low**; no yelling.
2. **Follow directions** from the driver and school officials.
3. Stay **seated facing forward**; do not switch seats while moving.
4. **No throwing** objects inside or outside the bus.
5. **Prohibited items** include drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vape pens, weapons, glass containers, etc.
6. Keep all personal belongings in your lap and seat area. **Large band instruments, duffle bags, sports equipment, etc.** will not be allowed on the bus as they are a safety concern and take up seating.
7. Use respectful language and gestures—**no profanity**.
8. Keep the bus **clean**.
9. **Keep all body parts** inside the bus.
10. No eating or drinking.
Water is allowed; lunches must remain sealed in a backpack/lunchbox.
11. **Smartphones and other electronic devices are for personal use only**
Earphones or ear buds are required for listening to electronic devices; speakers are not allowed.
No photos, selfies or videos shall be taken with electronic devices or shared using any social media while on the bus.
Images on electronic devices shall not be shown to other students on the bus.
If devices cause a distraction, the driver may request they be stored away.
12. Remain **silent** at railroad crossings.
13. Do not use **body sprays or perfumes** on the bus.
14. Personal items must **fit in your lap and not occupy a seat**.

When Exiting the Bus

- Exit calmly and without pushing.
- If crossing, walk **ten feet in front of the bus**, wait for the driver's signal, and check for traffic.
- Never pick up dropped items—**tell the driver**.
- **Never cross behind the bus** (this is against the law).
- Move at least **ten feet away** from the bus; do not chase or touch the vehicle once it leaves.

THE DANGER ZONE



Eligibility to Ride a Bus

- **Eligible students** are those who legally reside within the school district and live **more than 1.5 miles** from school.
 - **Transfer students** are **not eligible** for transportation unless they are being taken to a **contracted childcare provider**.
 - Students must ride the **same assigned bus** every day.
Bus routes are designed based on student population in each area, and inconsistent use can result in overcrowding or inefficient service.
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Riding a Different Bus

Durant ISD's transportation service is intended **only for home or contracted childcare pickups/drop-offs**.

- Students **may not ride** an alternate bus for personal reasons (e.g., friends' homes, babysitters, relatives).
 - In cases of **family emergencies**, contact the **Transportation Office in advance** to discuss special arrangements.
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Discipline Plan

Offense	Consequence
1st	Verbal warning from the driver
2nd	Assigned seat for at least 3 days
3rd	Probation: conduct form submitted; parent contact
4th	Loss of bus privilege for at least 2 days; parent contact

Continued or serious violations may lead to permanent loss of bus privileges.

Severe or Extreme Behavior

The following actions may result in **immediate suspension** of bus privileges **without prior warnings**:

- Vandalism
- Fighting
- Abusive language/gestures
- Bullying
- Failure to comply with driver.
- Throwing/spitting objects
- Possession or use of **weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, or vape products**.
- Any behavior that **jeopardizes student or staff safety**.

Vaping & Drug Use on School Buses

Vaping of any kind is prohibited on Durant ISD school buses.

Any student who is caught vaping or using an electronic smoking device on a school bus will be subject to an immediate suspension of bus transportation privileges pending completion of the drug-testing process described below.

If the type of vape cannot be determined, or if the vape is unrecovered, the student and/or parent/guardian may request reinstatement of bus transportation privileges by providing documentation of a negative drug test from a reputable, certified drug-testing facility confirming that marijuana or other prohibited substances were not used.

All costs associated with the required drug testing will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Upon submission of a negative drug test, the bus transportation suspension will be reduced to six (6) weeks for the first offense.

Any subsequent instance of vaping on a school bus will result in suspension of bus transportation privileges for the remainder of the school year.

Zero Tolerance

Vaping has no place on a school bus. Our priority is the safety, health, and well-being of every student and driver.

Emergencies

In emergencies, students must:

- **Stay calm.**
- **Be quiet.**
- **Follow all driver's instructions.**

If an evacuation is needed, follow the procedure without delay.

Weather & Delays

Snow & Weather Emergencies

All weather-related changes will be communicated via the district's official communication platform.

Late Buses

Buses may be delayed by:

- Mechanical issues
- Traffic congestion or accidents
- Weather or train crossings

Lost & Found

- Items will be kept by the bus driver for **3 days**.
- Afterward, items go to the **Transportation Office**.
- **Unclaimed items after 2 weeks may be donated or discarded.**

Bus Stops

Durant ISD buses **will not enter**:

1. Dead-end streets
2. Cul-de-sacs (unless deemed safe and necessary)
3. Private property or roads

Stop Guidelines

- **In-Town Stops:** Located within **6 blocks** of a student's home.
- **Out-of-Town Stops:** May involve longer walks due to routing and safety considerations.
- Students should **dress for the weather** and be prepared for outdoor waiting.

Safety Compliance

All bus stops meet **State of Oklahoma safety standards**.

Bus Stop Change Requests

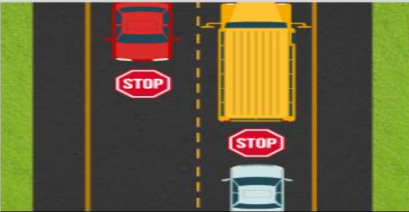
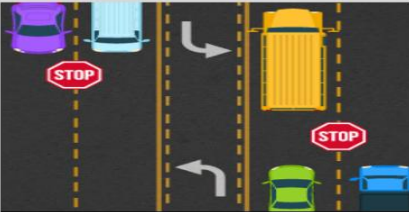
Requests are evaluated based on:

1. Immediate safety risks
2. Excessive distance to stop.
3. Summer evaluations

The **ability to see the stop from your home** is **not** a valid reason for change.
Changes are made only when they meet criteria and can be fairly applied to all students.

School Bus Safety for Motorists

SCHOOL BUSES ARE LIKE TRAFFIC SIGNALS		
WHEN AMBER OVERHEAD LIGHTS ARE FLASHING:  PREPARE TO STOP.	WHEN RED OVERHEAD LIGHTS ARE FLASHING:  STOP!	WHEN AMBER HAZARD LIGHTS ARE FLASHING:  PROCEED WITH CAUTION!

WHEN SHOULD I STOP FOR A BUS?		
 TWO-LANE Vehicles traveling in both directions MUST stop.	 MULTI-LANE FULLY PAVED Vehicles traveling in both directions MUST stop.	 DIVIDED HIGHWAYS Vehicles behind bus MUST stop. Vehicles traveling in opposite direction continue with caution.

Stop-Arm Violations

STOP-ARM VIOLATION CAMERAS

Durant ISD school buses are equipped with **stop-arm violation cameras** that record vehicles illegally passing a stopped school bus while students are loading or unloading.

The camera system captures the vehicle's **license plate number** and other identifying information. Recorded violations may be submitted to the City of Durant for enforcement and citation issuance.

Witness A Violation?

Report it to:

- Durant ISD Transportation Office
- Durant Police Department

OKLAHOMA LAW — 47 O.S. § 11-705

- **STOP** when approaching a school bus displaying **flashing red lights and an extended stop arm**.
 - **DO NOT PROCEED** until the warning signals have been deactivated and the bus begins moving.
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Video/Audio Monitoring

All school buses are equipped with **video cameras** for safety monitoring.

Under **FERPA**, bus recordings are considered **educational records** and may only be viewed by:

- **Transportation Personnel**
- **School Administrators**
- **Law Enforcement**

Recordings are used to verify incidents and identify students when necessary.