G.P.I.S.D. Transportation Department

A GREAT PLACE TO BE

LEADING ★ LEARNING ★ SERVING

Transportation Safety and Guidelines

Student Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

Bus Rules

1. Listen and follow all driver instructions
2. Sit properly with your hands and feet to yourself. Keep belongings in your lap.
3. Talk quietly and use courteous language.
4. No eating or drinking allowed.
5. The School Bus is GPISD property. Do not mark, draw on, cut, or deface the school bus.
6. Keep your bus clean – use the trash cans.
7. Drivers are authorized to assign seats.
8. Cell phones may be used as long as they are not a distraction for the driver and others.

CROSS THE ROAD SAFELY WHEN BOARDING YOUR BUS

- Follow the 10-foot rule:
- STAY on your side of the road, far away from the traffic.
- WAIT for the bus to stop and for your driver's signal to cross;
- CHECK traffic both ways, then check again;
- CROSS by walking directly across in front of the bus, checking traffic both ways; and
- WALK approximately 10 feet ahead of the bumper, and board the bus quickly.

CROSS THE ROAD SAFELY WHEN LEAVING THE BUS

- WALK along the side of the bus 10 feet ahead until you can see the driver.
- STOP and wait for the signal to cross.
- WALK/LOOK for traffic in both directions, crossing the road quickly after all vehicles have stopped.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- Parents or guardians shall be responsible and accountable for the conduct and safety of their children at all times prior to the arrival and after the departure of the school bus at the assigned school bus stop.
- Have your child at the bus stop five-ten minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time.
- If possible, teach your child their full name, home address, and telephone number where an adult family member may be contacted in an emergency.
- Review the School Bus Safety Rules with your child.
- Remind students to watch for siblings at bus loading or unloading times, and encourage them to notify the bus driver of any concerns of a sibling not loading the bus, or getting off at the appropriate stop.
- Ensure your child is aware of and obeys the safety rules of the bus as well as bus driver instructions.
- Check InfoFinder on the GPISD Transportation webpage for your child's appropriate bus number and route.
- Speak to your child about demonstrating safe and appropriate behavior at the bus stop.
- Make sure that you or a trusted family member of 18 years of age or older are at the bus
- stop to receive your pre-K or kindergarten student.
- Once a bus departs a stop or school it will not return for late students or stop.
- Pre-K or kindergarten children may only be received by a parent/legal guardian or approved family member who is documented with our Transportation department.

What is the parent's responsibility at drop-off time?

- In the event you are unable to be home when your child arrives, arrange an alternate plan with your child: where to go, a hidden key, talk to a neighbor, etc. Careful planning for the unexpected can greatly reduce your child's anxieties!
- If possible, be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to drop off your elementary aged child(ren).
- A caregiver designated by the parent/guardian which may be an 18 or years of age or older sibling is required to be at the bus stop to receive their pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten student. To avoid missing your student, please be at the bus stop five-ten minutes before the bus is scheduled to drop off. The caregiver should have their ID and approach the front step of the bus to receive their students

What if my child needs to get of at another stop other than their regularly assigned stop?

- Students are only allowed to ride their assigned bus to and from their assigned bus stop to minimize the potential of a hazardous situation.

- Any temporary change in bus assignments can only be made on an emergency basis if a request is submitted by the parent in writing (by note or email) and approved by the school Principal or Asst. Principal. Requests to locations related to student after-school activities cannot be approved. Requests should be submitted at least 30 minutes prior to the end of the school day to ensure sufficient time for communication of the change to appropriate parties.

Boarding/Exiting Bus:

- Students must be on time and visible at the bus stop (recommended time to arrive is five minutes before bus comes).
- Students must not approach a bus until it stops. Once the bus has stopped, students may board.
- Once on the bus, students must go directly to their assigned seats so the bus may continue its route.
- When exiting, students should cross in front of the bus quickly but safely -- away from the unloading area.
- The emergency door at the back of the bus is for emergencies only, not for general boarding or exiting.
- A student may board and depart the bus only at his/her designated stop.
- Friends are only allowed to ride with a parent's note and Administrator permission.

Prohibited on Bus:

- All items that are prohibited at school
- Smoking of any tobacco related product, marijuana, and E-cigs on the bus
- Live/dead animals
- Flammable materials
- Large items that do not fit on the student's lap such as including band instruments. (arrangements must be made for the parent to transport these items)
- Skateboards, balls, rollerblades or balloons

Galena Park Independent School District
Transportation Dept.
812 Normandy St.
Houston, TX 77015