

**FRIENDSWOOD I.S.D.
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY REGULATIONS 2010 - 2011**

"Bus Rider Rules and Regulations Agreement"

The Friendswood Independent School District has a legal responsibility to provide safe and efficient transportation to and from school. In order to provide for more effective bus safety, the superintendent or his designee is hereby directed to publish rules of conduct for pupils riding school buses and deliver this communication to parents advising of the policy and established rules of conduct for bus riders.

Students shall observe the following school bus rules of conduct in addition to appropriate behavioral expectations the schools require. Any violation of these rules, such as serious or continuing misconduct, can result in a student's suspension from the bus.

The Transportation Director manages bus safety and discipline issues. Any questions or concerns in reference to student safety or discipline should be addressed to the transportation center.

GENERAL RULES

1. The driver is in full charge of the bus and its occupants. Pupils must obey the driver promptly. Disobedience and disrespect will not be tolerated.
2. The driver has the authority to seat students in assigned seats and to change their assignments, as needed.
3. The possession of a weapon/knife or any dangerous instrument is prohibited.
4. The possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or illicit narcotics is not allowed.
5. The use of obscene, profane speech or gestures is prohibited.

RULES FOR LOADING THE BUS

1. Be at the designated school bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled bus arrival time. The driver is on a time schedule and cannot wait for students who are late.
2. Students should wait for the bus in view of the driver, but off of the roadway where possible.
3. Students are not to move toward the bus or attempt to enter the bus until the bus comes to a complete stop, the parking brake is set, and the door is opened.
4. Students shall enter the bus only when the driver is present and has given permission. After entering the bus, the student must stay on the bus because of safety considerations for the other students who are boarding the bus. If the bus driver determines that it is necessary for the student to exit the bus, then the bus driver will give permission to the student to leave the bus.
5. Students may ride the school bus to and from their designated bus stop only. According to state law, students may only be picked up or dropped off at the scheduled bus stop closest to their residence, the residence of a grandparent, or a licensed child-care facility. Parents should

designate the scheduled bus stop. For the security, safety and protection of our students we will not accept requests to either pick up or drop off a student at a different bus stop. The only exception to this is that the parent may provide an advance written request to the Transportation Office (not the bus driver) to have a student either picked up and/or dropped off at a different location at a designated bus stop on the same bus route.

6. For the safety of our students, when the bus doors are closed at the schools, then the bus doors will not be reopened unless authorized by an FISD representative.

RULES FOR STUDENTS WHILE ON THE BUS

1. While on the bus, classroom conduct shall be followed except for conversation in ordinary tones.
2. Students must load and unload from the front door only. The use of the Emergency Exit Door shall only be used when directed by the driver.
3. Students must sit down in assigned seat as soon as they board the bus.
4. Students must sit in their assigned seat each day. The driver may change the seating arrangement at any time, as he/she deems necessary.
5. The Transportation Department follows District guidelines regarding use of cell phones and pagers. Use of these devices is not permitted on FISD buses. **See District Cell Phone Policy**
6. Students must keep all parts of their body inside the bus and feet on the floor.
7. Students shall treat bus equipment appropriately. Damage to seats or other equipment must be paid for by the person(s) responsible.
8. Students must keep the aisle clear of books, packages, band instruments, etc.
9. Students will not throw anything onto or out of the bus.
10. Students are not allowed to eat or drink while on the bus. (Cans, bottles, and cups are not allowed on the bus unless part of a lunch container.)
11. Students are not allowed to have gum while on the bus. This will eliminate gum being stuck on the seats, on the floor and other places on the bus.
12. Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion.
13. Students shall not talk with the driver while the bus is in motion, except when necessary.
14. Students must be absolutely quiet while approaching and while stopped at a railroad crossing.
15. In the event of a road emergency, students must remain in the bus unless directed by the driver to leave the bus and then students shall follow the instructions of the driver.

First Offense

- Cell phone confiscated and returned to parent only upon payment of a \$15.00 administration fee.

Second Offense

- Cell phone confiscated and returned to parent only upon completion of suspension from bus privileges and payment of a \$15.00 administration fee.
- 3 days suspension of bus privileges.

Third Offense and All Subsequent Offenses

- Cell phone confiscated and returned to parent only upon completion of suspension from bus privileges and payment of a \$15.00 administration fee.
- 5 days suspension from bus privileges.

RULES AFTER UNLOADING THE BUS

1. Cross the road in front of the bus only after checking traffic and after receiving a signal from the driver to proceed.
2. Do not attempt to reboard the bus after unloading.
3. Be alert for the danger signal from the driver.
4. For the safety of our students, the driver is not permitted to let students off the bus at any other place than their designated bus stop. If an emergency arises, then the parent must contact both the school and the Transportation Office in order to remove a student from the bus.

RULES FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS

1. The aforementioned rules and regulations apply to any school-sponsored trip.
2. The bus driver is charged with the full responsibility for the safe operation of the bus while on extra trips and is to follow the assigned route for the trip.
3. The driver will expect the full cooperation and assistance of assigned sponsors and students.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH MISBEHAVIOR

By and large, the majority of our students will act within the established rules. There are, of course, some who will misbehave and require some type of response or action from the driver.

When a student's behavior interferes with safe transportation (physical or emotional) and it is not a serious offense, then the driver will go by the following procedures:

1. Hold a conference with the student. Inform the student of the behavior that needs to be corrected. Give the student an opportunity to correct the behavior. If the conference with the student does not result in the expected behavior, then go to step 2.

2. Reassign the student's seat for a limited period of time. If possible, the first two seats at the front of the bus should be available for the reassignment. If the seat reassignment does not result in the expected behavior, then go to step 3.
3. Contact a parent and inform the parent of their student's behavior that is interfering with safe transportation. If the contact with the parent does not work, then go to step 4.
4. Hold a meeting with the Safety Coordinator at which both the lead driver and you are present. The Safety Coordinator will contact the parent, explain why the student's behavior is interfering with safe transportation, and inform the parent that the next step by the driver will be to complete a School Bus Safety Report. If the Safety Coordinator's contact with the parent does not result in the expected behavior, then go to step 5.
5. Complete and follow the procedures for a School Bus Safety Report.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY REPORT

The bus driver is hereby authorized to issue "Bus Safety Reports" for rider violations. The following are penalties that may be invoked for serious and/or continuing misconduct in violation of established rules. When a student receives a "Bus Safety Report", he/she must have the notice signed by the parent or legal guardian and return it to the bus driver on the next date the student rides the bus in order for bus rider privileges to be restored.

1st Offense - Student placed on probation

2nd Offense - Student denied riding privilege (3 days)

3rd Offense - Student denied riding privilege (5 days)

4th Offense - Student denied riding privilege (10 days)

5th Offense - Student denied riding privilege for the remainder of the school year..

SEVERE DISRUPTION – If any student is involved in a severe disruption that jeopardizes or threatens the safety of others, any subsequent step may be ignored and immediate suspension of bus privileges may be initiated by the either the Transportation Director or the Transportation Safety Coordinator.

APPEAL PROCEDURES (SUSPENSIONS)

Either the Transportation Director or the Transportation Safety Coordinator shall report each bus suspension to the parent(s) and the appropriate Assistant Principal. In the event a parent believes the punishment is unjust, the parent should use the following procedure:

1. Discuss the incident with the Transportation Safety Coordinator for a full account of the circumstances.
2. If the parent, after discussion with the Transportation Safety Coordinator, is not satisfied with the results then the parent can request a conference with the Transportation Director to resolve the matter.