

Corsicana ISD Transportation Guidelines and Safety

Rules

As part of our aim to provide ample opportunity for an education, the Texas State Board of Education and the district fund transportation for all students who live two miles or more from the school that they are assigned to attend. To accomplish this, we require the cooperation of all students and parents.

Corsicana ISD school bus drivers are highly trained professionals who have obtained a Federal Commercial Driver's License with air brake, passenger, and school bus endorsements. They are required to attend a 20-hr school bus driver safety-training course approved by the Texas Department of Public Safety as well as pass a physical examination, which is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Additional Corsicana ISD training is required in Safety/Student Management/DISD procedures.

"We strive to be the best because our children deserve to be safe."

School Bus Safety Rules

The school bus is an extension of the school day. All rules and guidelines in the student code of conduct apply on the school bus. Corsicana ISD transportation operates under a progressive discipline policy when promoting and enforcing student safety on the bus. This means that any safety violations will build on past violations in the same school year, resulting in longer suspension periods.

Rules defining student conduct are designed to protect the passengers and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- The bus driver is in charge of the students on the bus. Students shall always follow the driver's directions regarding safety rules and bus operations.
- **All** students are required to have a SMART TAG ID in their possession on the bus.
- Only authorized personnel and registered eligible bus students are permitted to ride the bus they are assigned to.
- May only load and unload at the stop designated by transportation. Buses will stop at designated stops only. Those stops are assigned by the Transportation Department based on the student's recorded home address.
- Students are to arrive at their bus stop (5) five minutes before their leave time. Students will wait next to (but not in) the street, driveway, or parking lot.

- Students must be respectful of the property surrounding the stop. Students must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching to board or standing to leave the bus.
- Emergency transportation may be granted on a temporary basis by the Director of Transportation. **Notes from parents/guardians will not be accepted as authorization to ride a bus.**
- Students will remain properly seated (facing forward, always keeping feet on the floor in front of them with their backs completely on the vinyl).
- **ALL CORSICANA ISD students will** receive assigned seats.
- **ALL CORSICANA ISD buses are NO TOUCH BUSES. Zero tolerance will be applied.** Any verbal or physical behavior that constitutes Sexual Harassment and/or Bullying is **prohibited on the bus and at designated bus stops.**
- Students must keep all body parts, bodily fluid, and personal objects from contacting another student.
- Students are allowed to drink **water only**. There will be no consumption of food or gum.
- Littering or throwing items inside or from the bus is prohibited. Students must keep their hands, head, feet, and personal objects inside the bus at all times.
- Students may not engage in yelling, abusive or inappropriate language, or display obscene gestures. The bus driver may require any or all students to be silent on the bus.
- Students shall not vandalize the bus. Students who violate this rule will be required to pay for damages and lose their bus privileges for a period of time to be determined.
- Students are not allowed to bring animals, insects, inflated balloons, or harmful objects on the bus (i.e., weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, laser lights, etc.). on the bus.
- Students may use cell phones for any operation, **EXCEPT Camera or Video Use (No picture taking, video recording, face time, or Skype of themselves, others, or surroundings for any reason).**
- Band instruments or class projects are allowed on a Corsicana ISD bus provided they can be held by the student (not taller than shoulder or seat back), fit in the seat with the student, do not interfere with the availability of seating for other students, and do not interfere with the safety of students or bus operation.
- Students are not to engage in any other conduct that disrupts the safe operation of the bus.

Consequences

The bus driver will report misconduct to the Director of Transportation or designee using a Bus Safety Report. Copies of the report will be sent to the parents and school principal then placed on file in the Transportation Department.

Video and audio surveillance may be in operation on your child's bus to help in maintaining a safe and orderly bus. Federal law prohibits the school district from releasing the video to any member of the public except law enforcement officials (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

If necessary, inappropriate behavior will be investigated using student interviews and video reviews - parents will be notified of the results. Suspensions can only be served during active school days. Students who violate bus safety rules will receive the following consequences:

- Written warning
- One-Day bus suspension
- Three-day bus suspension
- Five-day bus suspension
- 10-day bus suspension
- 30-day bus suspension
- Severe bus suspension
- Indefinite suspension for the rest of the school year

CERTAIN BEHAVIORS CONSTITUTE A MORE SEVERE SUSPENSION SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- **Racist Language**
- **Threatening Language**
- **Throwing Objects inside or outside of the bus**
- **Behavior that could cause harm to oneself or others**
- **Disruption of Transportation**
- **Other behavior determined by the Assistant Superintendent or Director of Transportation.**
- **SEVERE SUSPENSION CAN BE UP TO AN INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.**

Education Code 37.126. Disruption of Transportation: Except as provided by Section 37.125, a person commits an offense if the person intentionally disrupts, prevents, or interferes with the lawful transportation of children to or from school or an activity sponsored by a school on a vehicle owned or operated by a county or independent school district. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

School Bus Driver Responsibilities

- Corsicana ISD's bus drivers work directly for the school district.
- They must be trained in Corsicana policy/procedures and come directly under district control and supervision while transporting Corsicana students.
- They are responsible for safely driving the school bus, transporting the students, and staying on time.
- To aid the drivers with that responsibility, they are given control over daily operations. This may include the following: assigning seats, requiring silence on the bus, instruction in emergency procedures, etc.

Parent Responsibilities

- Register your child for transportation through Smart Tag
 - This will allow you to interactively follow your child and receive notifications upon your child's boarding and exiting the bus.
 - Your student must be registered to be eligible for bus service. Students that are not registered may be denied transportation services.
- Corsicana ISD can only provide transportation for Elementary students whose address is within the boundaries of the campus of their residence. (Example: No transporting a student that lives in the Carroll district to a different elementary campus)
 - If you move, you must provide the campus with new proof of residency as transportation is based upon whatever address the campus has entered and until it is updated, bussing will continue to be provided to the original address.
- To maintain the routing/bus schedule, drivers cannot wait (unless they are early) at bus stops and may not have sufficient time to return if your child missed the bus.
- Children must be at their stops five (5) minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Take the time to go over all the bus safety rules and consequences listed below with your child.
- Make sure they understand the need for following the safety rules on the bus and the necessity for respecting others as well as themselves.
- If your student should lose their bus privileges, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to transport to and from school.
- At no time is a parent authorized to board a Corsicana ISD school bus.
- To ensure the safety and security of all students on Corsicana ISD buses, parents may not board the bus at any time.
- The driver has been instructed not to engage in discussions with parents on route to avoid route delays.
- **Should you need to discuss an issue with the bus driver, please contact our office at 903-872-4181.**

Student Responsibilities

Take the time to go over all bus safety rules and consequences and make sure you understand the need to follow the safety rules on the bus and the necessity to respect other students as well as yourself. Remember that the driver is the authority on your bus.

MORNINGS

- Be at your bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Wait next to, but not in the street, driveway, or parking lot.
- When the bus approaches, form a line, and be prepared to load immediately.
- Stand clear of the bus until it comes to a complete stop.
- Use the handrail and steps.
- Go directly to your seat and sit down.
- The bus will not move until you are properly seated.

AFTERNOONS

- Go directly to your bus at the campus-the bus will wait 5 minutes after arrival.
- Use the handrail and steps.
- Go directly to your seat and sit down.
- The bus will not move until you are properly seated.
- At your stop, stay seated until you hear the brake set.
- Wait for your turn to leave the bus. Pushing and crowding will only slow exiting and may cause an accident.
- Check-in both directions and walk directly across the street.
- Be alert for cars that do not stop when the bus is loading or unloading students.

IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY

- FOLLOW THE DRIVER'S DIRECTIONS COMPLETELY AND WITHOUT HESITATION

Please contact the Corsicana ISD Transportation department for any issues or concerns at 903-872-4181.