

Discipline

The school bus is an extension of the classroom, and the principal will administer discipline after referral from the bus driver. All school board policies that apply to student conduct and other student related activities apply to the school bus.

After a bus driver has exhausted all disciplinary measures, a bus safety report is written and forwarded to the building administrator. Discipline will be progressively administered with an increasing degree of intervention, which is designed to promote student self-discipline. School officials shall notify local law enforcement authorities if they suspect that criminal acts have occurred on school buses.

The following disciplinary options are available to campus administrators:

- Change of seat assignment
- Detention
- Restitution for damage if applicable
- Confiscation of prohibited nuisance items
- Suspension of bus privilege
- Suspension
- Corporal punishment
- Referral to law enforcement agency
- Removal to an alternate educational placement
- Exclusion from extracurricular activities
- Expulsion

Responsibility of Parents

Parent cooperation is essential to the well-being of a student on the bus as well as in the classroom. Parent obligations are as follows:

1. To provide the necessary protection for students traveling to and from the bus stop during times of inclement weather.
2. To assume joint responsibility with school authorities for the proper conduct of students.
3. To explain the bus rules and regulations to their children so that both parents and students understand.
4. To provide transportation of a student who is suspended from riding the bus.
5. To instruct their children on what to do if the bus is missed.

The building administrator, transportation director, or bus driver may call a parent conference at any time should serious misconduct occur. The principal or designee shall have the authority, in accordance with the law, as stated in Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, to determine the discipline action of any offense that occurs on Deer Park I.S.D. school buses.

Bus Rider's Safety Handbook

Parents and Bus Riders

The goal of this Bus Rider's Handbook is to help provide a safe and enjoyable experience for children and adults who ride the school buses. Parents should take time to read and discuss the materials in this handbook with their children. Riding a school bus is a privilege provided by the school district and should be treated as such.

School buses are provided for the purpose of transporting students to and from school. Students riding a bus are under school regulations from the time they enter the bus until they exit at the bus stop in the afternoon.

The bus drivers are in charge of students when they are on the bus. The school may take disciplinary action for a student's misbehavior while he/she is in transit by school bus to and from school or any school sponsored activity. A student who fails to comply with bus regulations may lose the privilege of riding on school buses. For safety's sake, the drivers must have complete order.

Parents are strongly urged to be consistent on the mode of transportation that their child will take to and from school each day. Only students who are eligible to ride may be transported and must ride their assigned bus. Do not ask to ride home on another bus unless it is an emergency. In this case, the bus driver will require a note from the parents, approved by the principle.

Video Observation System (VOS)

All of the school buses in the Deer Park Independent School District are equipped for a VOS. Students should be aware that their actions and communications could be recorded at any time by the utilization of the VOS and upon review of a student's action on the VOS tape, a discipline notice may be issued. **Parents should be aware that the recorded video will not be made public and will only be viewed by authorized district personnel.**





General Safety Rules

1. Follow the instructions of the bus driver and rules posted at the front of each bus. At no time will a student act toward, or address comments to, a bus driver in a disrespectful manner or refuse to cooperate with the driver.
2. Board and leave the bus at designated stops only.
3. Only students who are **eligible** to ride may be transported and must ride their **assigned** bus.
4. Do not ask to ride home on another bus with a friend. This will only be allowed in an emergency situation and must be pre-approved by a principal.
5. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation if a student misses the bus.



Bus Rider Responsibilities – Prior to loading/going to the bus stop

1. **Dress for the weather and time of day.** If it is rainy or dark, and visibility is poor, wear a raincoat or bright-colored clothing with reflective material, etc. Start extra early, walk carefully and stay alert.
2. **Be on time.** Plan to be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus will arrive. Other people are waiting on the bus and the bus driver cannot wait for you. The driver will not wait or honk. If a bus must wait one (1) minute at each bus stop for the students to get to the bus stop, **this could require the bus to start its route 30 minutes earlier.**
3. At the bus stop, **wait away from the edge of the road**, so you won't get hurt.



Procedures on Waiting for the Bus

1. Be at your stop five minutes before scheduled pick-up time. Driver will not wait or honk.
2. Stand on the sidewalk or back from the roadway while waiting for the bus.
3. When the bus approaches, form a line and be prepared to load immediately.
4. Stand clear of the bus until it comes to a complete stop.
5. If you miss the bus, go home immediately.
6. Parents should instruct their children on what procedures to follow if the bus is missed.
7. Students will abide by the individual school's rules and regulations concerning bus students, including conduct and dress code.



Loading the Bus

1. Do not push or shove.
2. Use the handrail and steps.
3. Go to your assigned seat. The bus will not move until all students are seated.



Riding on the Bus

1. Remain seated while the bus is moving and do not change seats.
2. A student shall not refuse to sit in an assigned seat or deny another student a place to sit.
3. Each student will be expected to remain seated for the duration of the trip and remain seated until the bus door opens.
4. Normal conversation is permitted; any loud noises may distract the driver and create an unsafe condition.
5. Scuffling, fighting, and the use of obscene, vulgar or profane language and gestures are forbidden.
6. Do not throw objects inside or outside the bus.
7. Do not mark, cut, or scratch any part of the bus. The person who is responsible will pay vandalism costs.
8. Pupils should use the emergency door and exit controls only during supervised drills or actual emergencies.
9. Students shall never attempt to operate the passenger door or other driver controls except in cases of extreme emergency.
10. Students shall face forward for the duration of the trip, and shall keep their feet on the floor in front of them and out of the bus aisle.



Prohibited Items

1. Tobacco products
2. Glass containers
3. Alcoholic beverages
4. Weapons, explosive devices, harmful drugs or chemicals
5. Any object (musical instrument, shop project) too large to be carried by the student. All other items must be kept on the student's lap at all times.
6. Matches or cigarette lighters
7. Food, Drinks and Gum (no eating or drinking on the bus is permitted)
8. Radios or CD players
9. Any type of object carried onto the bus that the driver determines to be dangerous or may cause student disruption may be refused. (Example: live animals or insects that are not in a confined enclosure.)



Accidents or Emergencies

1. Follow the driver's instructions.
2. If you must leave the bus, stay in a group.
3. The following procedures will be used for evacuation in an emergency situation:
 - a) The student nearest the door will open the door and hold it open.
 - b) Leave the bus in a single file as quickly and quietly as possible.
 - c) Evacuation will start with the seat closest to the door.
 - d) Once outside the bus, follow the driver's instructions completely.

Dear Parent:

The Deer Park Independent School District provides bus transportation to and from school as a courtesy service for eligible students residing in the District. The State of Texas prescribes the conditions governing school bus operations and partially funds the service by allotting the District a given amount for eligible students transported.

Eligible students are defined by State statute as those residing in the District at least 2 miles from the school they should attend, as measured by the nearest practical route on a public road, but Deer Park ISD chooses to transport within 1.5 miles instead of the 2 miles set by the state. Deer Park also chooses to transport ineligible students at District expense if hazardous conditions exist.

In order to meet the conditions outlined by the State and provide safe, prompt movement of students, the Transportation Department has adopted standard regulations and procedures and has provided restrictive measures for violations of the rules. They are herein outlined for your information and for the guidance of your child.

The School District is pleased to provide transportation for its **eligible** students and solicits your assistance in helping create a safe, healthy operation. We ask your cooperation with school personnel in developing proper behavior patterns for those pupils who ride buses.

If you need information concerning bus routes, call the transportation office at (832) 668-7480 during office hours, 5:30AM – 5:00PM, or contact our web site at:

http://www.dpsid.org/district_services/transportation.htm

If you need information concerning student misconduct on buses, call the student's school administrator.

Thank You,

Jim Liggett
Director of Transportation

“Protect Your Riding Privilege”

FOLLOW THESE RULES

1. OBSERVE SAME CONDUCT AS IN THE CLASSROOM.
2. BE COURTEOUS, USE NO PROFANE LANGUAGE.
3. DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ON THE BUS.
4. KEEP THE BUS CLEAN.
5. COOPERATE WITH THE DRIVER.
6. TOBACCO PRODUCTS ARE PROHIBITED.
7. DO NOT BE DESTRUCTIVE.
8. STAY IN YOUR SEAT.
9. KEEP HEAD, HANDS AND FEET INSIDE THE BUS.
10. BUS DRIVER IS AUTHORIZED TO ASSIGN SEATS.