

# Bus Regulations

The district will make every effort to provide our children with the safest environment possible when riding a school bus. Rules must be established and followed so a safe environment can be maintained. Riding the bus is a privilege. All students will be expected to adhere to general rules of student's conduct while riding the school bus. When a student's conduct requires this privilege be denied, it will be the responsibility of the student and parents/guardians to find alternate means of transportation. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct while traveling to and from school, on extra-curricular trips, or any other school related activity as they are while on the school grounds. Students are expected to follow these guidelines for safe and orderly bus conduct.

1. Students should wait at their designated bus stop. They should remain out of the roadway, and at least ten (10) feet from the bus until it has come to a complete stop and the door is opened.
2. Students need to remain in a safe place, away from traffic, while waiting for the bus. In the event that the bus is late, students should continue to wait at their designated stop until the bus arrives. If the bus then arrives late to school, students must go to the principal's office for permission to enter class.
3. While loading and unloading, enter or leave the bus orderly and quickly.
4. Only students who are enrolled in Lavaca School will be allowed to ride the bus.
5. After bus routes have been designated, students may not ride a bus other than their assigned bus, except with permission from the principal.
6. While on the bus, obey the driver at all times. Conduct yourself in a manner that will not distract the attention of the driver or disturb other riders.
7. The driver of the bus shall make seating assignments. Students are to remain seated at all times that the bus is moving. They are not to tamper with any safety devices such as door latches, fire extinguishers, etc. Students are not allowed to yell, spit, hold, or throw anything out the bus window.
8. Students are not to deface the bus by writing on the seats or windows, cutting the seats, etc... (See "Damage or Destruction of School Property".)
9. Eating food or drinking beverages on the bus is prohibited.
10. The aisle of the bus should be kept clear.
11. The driver of the bus will let students off the bus at designated stops only. Prior arrangements must be made through the principal's office if the afternoon stop differs from the morning stop. Parents must notify the school, preferably in writing, when/if a student is to be picked up or ride another bus home. Our regular procedure will be to have the student follow their usual plan unless we have been notified otherwise.
12. Due to safety concerns, balloons or other large objects which may impede the bus driver's vision are prohibited on the bus.

## **WHILE RIDING THE BUS, THE STUDENTS ARE UNDER THE DRIVER'S SUPERVISION AND MUST OBEY THE DRIVER AT ALL TIMES.**

Improper conduct on the bus will not be tolerated. The buses are used to transport students safely to and from school. Student conduct that is distracting to the bus driver endangers the safety of all students on the bus. It is fair to the parents and to the child to be informed as to what steps will be taken to correct any violations of the rules set forth in these policies. Acts of deliberate vandalism will result in restitution of cost or suspension from the bus, or both beginning with the first offense. In extreme cases any of the following steps may be eliminated for a more appropriate action.

**STEPS FOR VIOLATION OF PROCEDURES:** Verbal warnings will be given by the driver. Thereafter, written warnings may be given by the driver and submitted to building principal or designee.

**FIRST OFFENSE:** The student will be called to the office and disciplinary action will be taken by the principal as warranted. A copy of the report will be sent home and a parent conference will be held.

**SECOND OFFENSE:** The student will be called to the office and disciplinary action will be taken by the principal as warranted. A copy of the report will be sent home. A parent conference will be held the student will be suspended from the bus for five (5) school days.

**THIRD OFFENSE:** The student will be suspended from the bus for the remainder of the semester. Parents will be notified of action taken.

**FOURTH OFFENSE:** The student will be suspended from the bus for the remainder of the school year. Parents will be notified of action taken.

For offenses determined severe in nature, the District has the right to surpass any offense number as determined by the Administration and immediately deny a student bus privileges due to the severity of the act.

**RIDING THE BUS IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT.** When student conduct requires this privilege be denied, it will be the responsibility of the student and the parents/guardians to find alternate means of transportation to and from school.