

BUS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT

*Working Together, Transporting the Future:
Our Children*

The SWISD Department of Transportation's goal is to transport our students, your children, safely and in a frame of mind to learn. Working together, we will have a safe and successful school year. The following Partnership Contract rules are taken directly from the Student Discipline Handbook. Consequences for violating the Bus Behavior policy are outlined in the Bus Safety Partnership Discipline Plan.

Compliance with the rules of the Bus Safety Partnership is required and is the responsibility of each student, to ensure the safe transportation of students to and from school. The SWISD Transportation Department reserves the right to remove any unruly student(s) jeopardizing the safety of others.

The objective of the school bus operator, the SWISD Schools and the SWISD School Board is to maintain proper student behavior while transporting students safely to and from school.

We greatly appreciate and thank you for your support for the Bus Safety Partnership Contract.

Southwest Independent School District

BUS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Students need to be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled time. Buses arriving within five (5) minutes of the scheduled time are considered to be on time. The bus will stop to load and unload passengers only at the designated bus stops. During inclement weather the Driver may make stops closer to a passenger's home, if possible.
2. Students shall follow all student behavior policies and regulations while on District- provided transportation, including, but not limited to, the prohibitions on physical violence, bullying, assault, battery, disrespectful conduct, or other unruly behavior. Students are to keep all body parts inside the bus at all times and must remain seated at all times. Nothing may be thrown into, out of, within, or at the bus. Students must not; make unnecessary noises, converse in loud talking or yelling out the window. Students must be absolutely silent at all railroad crossings.
3. Students shall move behind the guardrail or white line and be seated before the bus is put into motion, and they must remain seated throughout the entire bus ride.
4. Obscene language and gestures are prohibited.
5. Emergency doors and windows are to be used only at the direction of the Operator.
6. Students may not board or disembark bus at a bus stop other than the assigned stop for their residence, without submitting a written request from their parent or guardian, to the principal or designee for approval.
7. Students may use electronic devices during the operation of a school bus including, but not limited to: MP3 players, IPODs, cell phones, pagers, radios, tape players, and compact disc players, provided they are **used with headphones** and have the permission of the driver. **Drivers have the discretion to manage or prohibit the use of electronic devices on their bus.**
8. No video recording of any kind is allowed on the bus.
9. Students shall not use mirrors, lasers, flashing lights, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective surfaces in a manner which might interfere with the operation of the bus. Sports equipment, skateboards or items deemed by the driver as a safety hazard are prohibited.
10. Bringing food on board the bus is prohibited. Consumption of food or drinks is prohibited. This includes gum and candy. Water is permissible.
11. When instructed by the driver, students shall board and exit the bus quickly, in a quiet and orderly manner. Students are to cross the street in front of the bus in full view of the Driver
12. All articles brought on the bus (such as band instruments) must be kept in the possession of the owner at all times. Every effort will be made to accommodate the items; however, those that are too large or pose a threat to safety may be denied for transport. **Nothing will be placed into the aisle.**
13. Any behavior that is considered unsafe or disruptive by the bus driver will be handled through the use of the Bus Safety Partnership Discipline Plan.
14. Inappropriate behaviors determined to be major violation of the code of conduct do not require a verbal warning prior to a referral form being submitted to the school administrators.
15. Prohibited items may be temporarily held by the driver and will be turned in to the Transportation office for pickup by parent/guardian, or they may be turned over to the respective school administrator.

Certain behaviors will result in an automatic removal from SWISD Bus Transportation

*Students who engage in behavior, actions, or demonstrations that disrupt or interfere with the safe operation of district school buses, subject other students to bullying, or harassment, and/or create an atmosphere of fear for individuals or groups of students, or materially damage the bus are subject to disciplinary action that will **result in their removal from the bus** for a period of time to be determined by school and/or transportation or district officials.*

*These behaviors can occur **on a bus or at a stop** and include, but are not limited to:*

- Failure/refusal to remain seated for the entire trip*
- throwing objects inside of or outside of the bus*
- verbal/physical/sexual assault on a student, driver or aide*
- igniting smoke or stink bombs or fireworks*

- tampering with emergency equipment (fire extinguisher, emergency kits, emergency exits)*
- horseplay at stops that endanger other students (example- shoving other students into the path of the bus)*
- physical assault on a student*
- fighting*
- bullying, repeated harassment, or intimidation of students, driver or aide*
- possession of weapons*
- possession of drugs*
- possession of alcohol or tobacco products*
- vandalism (graffiti/tagging, or destruction of property, tearing/cutting seats, breaking windows, etc)*
- persistent misbehavior either of the same behavior, or a variety of misbehaviors*

UNSAFE BEHAVIOR ON THE RIDE HOME

- If unsafe behavior occurs before the bus leaves the school, the student will be provided with two options: (1) Correct the behavior and continue home (behavior documented) or (2) be removed from the bus and stay at the school with staff supervision until a parent or guardian can pick the student up.
- If unsafe behaviors occur after the bus leaves the school, the driver will pull over to a SAFE location and restore order. If necessary, the student(s) will be removed from the bus and transported home by alternate means.

STUDENTS ASSIGNED TO DAEP OF BOOT CAMP

Students that are assigned to Crossroads (DAEP) or Boot camp are transported by buses serving only those schools. The District has a zero-tolerance misbehavior policy on these buses. If students riding these buses violate the expected rules of conduct they can be removed from the bus for the duration of their term at those schools. Parents will then be required to transport those students.

REMEMBER, RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS IS A PRIVILEGE

BUS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP DISCIPLINE PLAN

- **1st Offense – Operator will give student verbal warning and continue to monitor student for compliance. Driver will record date and circumstances of verbal warning.**

- **2nd Offense – Discipline Referral written by Operator and signed by students, then submitted to Transportation Supervisor who will contact parent. Recommended action: Student placed on probation and subject to seat reassignment.**

- **3rd Offense – Discipline Referral submitted to respective school. Recommended action: Grades K-5, seat reassigned and a conference with administrator and student. Grades 6-12, seat reassigned and a conference with administrator, and student.**

- **4th Offense – Discipline Referral submitted. Recommended action: Grades K-5, three (3) day bus suspension and conference with administrator, student and parent upon return to school. Grades 6-12, three (3) day bus suspension and a conference with administrator, student and parent upon return to school. Upon return to the bus the student will be placed on probation and reassigned to the front of the bus for the remainder of the school year.**

- **5th Offense – Discipline Referral submitted. Recommended action: Grades K-5 and Grades 6-12 ten (10) day bus suspension and up to a maximum suspension of the remainder of the school year.**

- **6th Offense- Discipline Referral submitted and student removed from bus for remainder of the school year.**

- **Notes:**

- 1. Those offenses that have been identified as being subject to automatic removal from the bus for 10 days. Subsequent offenses can result in suspension for the remainder of the year.**

- 2. Any recurring violation during a probationary period will result in immediate suspension from the bus for the remainder of the probationary period.**

- 2. If probation is breached at any offense level a conference must be held with the student, parent or guardian, and administrator before student may return to riding the bus.**

- 3. Parents of students suspended from the bus will be responsible for all transportation of their student to include field trips, athletic events and after school activities.**

- 4. Bus suspensions apply to all transportation services**

Remember, rules are made for everyone's safety!

BUS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____ ROUTE# _____ DATE ISSUED _____

STUDENT NAME (Print) _____ SEX: M or F

ADDRESS _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN (Print) _____

HOME # _____ CELL # _____ WORK # _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____
Name (Print) Phone #

Relationship to student _____

Please list any medical conditions, allergies or special instructions for your child.

BUS SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the Bus Safety Partnership Contract and agree to abide by these rules. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action and possibly of riding privileges. This page **MUST** be signed by both Student and Parent or Guardian and returned to the Bus Driver no later than five days from issue date indicated above. Failure to return contract within five days of issue will result in loss of riding privileges until completed and signed contract is returned to the driver.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR SCHOOL