

Rescue Union School District Bus Rules

The driver has complete authority in operating the bus at all times. If, for any reason, a driver determines that a student's behavior is creating an unsafe situation on the bus, the district has the authority to deny transportation privileges.

To ensure safe and orderly rides for all students, video cameras may be used on the buses at any time in conjunction with the following Bus Rules.

Please read and go over the rules with your student(s). With your help, and the cooperation of all bus riders, we will be able to continue to provide safe transportation.

The following bus rules are in effect:

- Pupils shall be under the authority of, and directly responsible to the bus driver. The bus driver has the authority to assign seats to ensure safety.
- Pupils are to be at their designated bus stop (on the same side of the street as the bus) at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. It is not safe for students to run from all directions across streets to catch the bus.
- Pupils **shall** sit down and fasten any passenger restraint systems. Riders **shall** remain seated facing forward at all times.
- While waiting for and traveling on the bus, or going to and from the bus stop pupils will conduct themselves in a manner that will not discredit themselves, their parents, or their school.
- Riders shall not block the aisle or emergency exit with their body or personal belongings. Riders may bring large or bulky items, such as class projects or musical instruments, on the bus only if the item does not displace any other rider or obstruct the driver's vision.
- Interior lights, or dome lights, which are turned on by the driver, are a signal for complete quiet in the bus.
- All pupils **shall** be completely quiet and remain seated at all railroad crossings.
- Pupils are to be quiet and orderly when the driver is out of the bus escorting students across the street (red light crossing).
- Playing musical instruments, whistling, yelling, loud talking, profane language, throwing articles, shooting rubber bands, scuffling, or other distracting commotion is not permitted.
- Eating, drinking and chewing gum are prohibited.
- While on the bus, no part of a pupil's body shall be out the window. At no time shall a pupil throw anything out the window.
- Animals, including reptiles and insects, may not be transported on the bus. The only exceptions are animals assisting the handicapped (i.e., seeing eye dogs, etc.)
- No glass or other hazardous materials may be transported on the bus. No sharp objects including knives or sharp scissors are allowed on the bus. With school and transportation approval, items such as toys, radios, tape recorders, CD players, skateboards or playground equipment may be transported in approved containers.
- Cell phones are not allowed. **Cell phones shall be off and put away before entering the bus.**

- Use or possession of Tobacco, drugs, alcohol, lighters, matches, or fireworks is strictly prohibited.
- No pupil shall interfere with, or cause damage to the property of another pupil, while riding on, waiting for, or going to and from the bus.
- Any damage to the bus by a pupil, which cannot be considered ordinary wear and tear, must be paid for by the pupil.
- No pupil may change seats in front of, or block the way of, a pupil who is leaving the bus.
- Pupils, who must be escorted across the street, shall wait inside the bus by the exit door until the driver tells them to cross the street. Pupils shall only cross the street in front of the bus, between the bus and the driver. Do not cross the street behind the bus.
- Upon leaving the bus, pupils shall go directly home.
- Pupils will only be allowed to get off at their designated bus stop unless; the student has presented the bus driver with a note from their parent/guardian authorizing the driver to release the student at a different bus stop. The note is to be presented to the driver as the student enters the bus on his/her way home. Such requests **must** be in writing, dated and with an authorized signature and contact number. Approval will be granted on a space available basis.
- Pupils are prohibited from using another pupil's bus pass or bus ticket.

PENALTIES:

First Reported Violation:

- *Is a warning unless, in the judgment of transportation or school officials, the penalty should be more severe.*

Second Reported Violation:

- *Loss of transportation for at least three days.*

Third Reported Violation:

- *Loss of transportation for at least five days.*

Fourth Reported Violation:

- *Loss of transportation for the balance of the school year.*

In accordance with district policies, bus riders in grades 1-8 will be dropped off at their designated bus stop, whether or not an adult is present to meet them. Kindergarteners will not be dropped off at the bus stop unless an adult is present or parent has given permission for kindergartener to walk home with a sibling or other designated older student (Kindergartner Walk Slip).