**Bus Guidelines & Rider Eligibility**

# Bus Guidelines

The MISD Student Code of Conduct applies on the bus as well as at the school. Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right, and the privilege may be revoked for safety and discipline reasons.

* Students are under the authority of Mesquite ISD. Students shall follow the instructions of the driver, monitor or transportation staff member.
* Cell phone use by students is prohibited on school buses.
* Students must remain at least 10 feet from the roadway while awaiting the arrival of a bus.
* Students are not to enter a bus when a driver is not in the vehicle.
* Students are required to board a bus in an orderly fashion, go directly to an assigned seat, and remain seated until arrival at the destination. The driver has the authority to assign seats on the bus.
* Students must never do anything that would disturb or distract the driver from safe operation of the bus. Students must refrain from throwing items from the bus.
* Students must keep hands, arms, heads and other objects inside the bus at all times.
* If a bus is equipped with safety equipment (i.e. seatbelt), all passengers must adhere to the equipment specifications.
* Students must load and unload at the designed stop and campus only. Drivers are not allowed to change designed stops.
* Students must stay a safe distance from a moving bus.

All personal belongings, e.g., backpacks, athletic equipment, books, musical instruments, etc., must be kept out of the aisles. Skateboards, roller blades, etc., are strictly prohibitedfrom the bus. The transportation of students’ equipment (class projects, books, band instruments, etc.) is provided according to available space and after all students have been seated. Such equipment may be transported if it is securely held by the student for the entire duration of the trip. Items too large to be held by the student may be transported if they do not interfere with the availability of seating for other students and do not interfere with the safety of students or bus operation.

# Pick-Up Times

Bus riders should arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled bus stop time, allowing for slight variances in clocks. Driver cannot wait or honk the bus horn as a cue for riders. In the mornings, the bus will not leave a stop before the scheduled time, but once it arrives at the stop, it will not wait beyond the scheduled stop time. If a student misses the bus, the student should return home and contact parents. Buses will not return to stops for missed students. Students will be picked up and dropped off at regularly designated stops only.

In the afternoon, buses will remain at the school 5 minutes after the bell for students to board; therefore, students should proceed immediately to their scheduled bus. For safety reasons, once bus doors are closed drivers are instructed to not stop the bus; therefore, buses will not stop to allow students on the bus once the bus is moving.

# Rider Eligibility

Transportation is available for students who live two miles or more from their assigned school. This policy is statewide for all grade levels and is based upon Texas Education Code’s state funding allotment. Transportation is not provided to students who choose to transfer from their assigned school.

Mesquite ISD’s mapping software helps determine transportation eligibility, as it is capable of accurately determining the home-to-school distance for each student in the District.