**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.

* The bus driver has authority over the students who are transported on the school bus.
* Cell phone use by students is prohibited on school buses.
* Students should remain well back from the roadway while awaiting the arrival of a bus.
* Students are asked not to enter a bus when a driver is not in the vehicle.
* Students should board a bus in an orderly fashion, go directly to a seat, and remain seated until the destination is reached. The driver has the authority to assign seats on the bus.
* Students should never do anything that would disturb or distract the driver from safe operation of the bus. Nothing should ever be thrown inside or outside the bus.
* Students must keep hands, arms, heads and other objects inside the bus at all times.

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 on a space-available basis 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 5 to 7 minutes before the scheduled bus stop time, allowing for slight variances in clocks. 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. 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. Drivers are instructed not to stop or open the bus door for late students due to safety concerns.

# 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.