



Hesperia Unified School District:
Safety and Your Student/Rules to Ride By

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please review the contents of the District's Rules to Ride By provided above with your student bus rider. The Board of Trustees has established these safe riding rules and progressive discipline procedures in order to ensure that all students receive a safe ride aboard district school buses to and from school and school related field/activity/athletic trips.

Title 5 CAC Section 14203 of the State Law reads:

Pupils transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of and responsible to the driver of the bus. The driver is responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or being escorted across the street, highway, or road. Continued misconduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver is sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation in accordance with the regulations of the Governing Board of the District.

Note: Drivers will constantly strive to be fair and impartial in their treatment and disciplining of the students.

Bus Discipline Procedures:

Students who violate the rules of conduct are subject to having the privilege of riding the bus suspended. The discipline procedures are as follows:

1st Violation: Parent/Guardian notified by letter

2nd Violation: Five (5) days off the bus. Parent/Guardian notified by letter and by phone.

3rd Violation: Bus riding privileges suspended. Minimum amount of time off the bus is fifteen (15) days. Possible no transportation for the remainder of the semester. This procedure will start over the beginning of each new semester.

Suspension: Upon suspension of bus riding privileges, all students, grades K-12, must surrender their bus pass to a HUSD Official or Designee.

Severe Incident: Recommendation by HUSD Official or Designee serious enough to justify suspension of bus riding privileges. When a student receives a citation from HUSD School Police or SBC Sheriff, all bus riding privileges will be suspended for four (4) weeks. If a second

citation is received, this will result in the loss of **ALL** bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.

Student Training:

Each year we have practice bus evacuations for all students enrolled at every school site. All students are required to participate in these drills for their own safety.

School Bus Expectations:

The school transportation service is provided for the mutual welfare of all that participate. It is important to understand that riding a school bus is a privilege and not a right, and this privilege will be revoked if necessary. This privilege can and will be revoked when serious misconduct occurs or when minor infractions occur repeatedly. Refusal of the District to provide transportation under these conditions does not excuse parents from their responsibility of having their student in school each day. Section 14103 of Title 5 of the California Administrative Code states that "Pupils transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of, and direct responsibility to, the driver of the bus."

Bus Loading Zone Procedures:

Students are expected to board and disembark their bus at the designated bus stop closest to their residence. Exceptions to this procedure may be made with the approval of the District or designee given hazardous walking conditions to/from a particular stop. Students riding buses to other than their designated (regular) stop must present to the bus driver a note from the principal or designee authorizing the use of an alternate stop and show a valid bus pass. Students are to arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive no earlier and wait in an orderly manner away from traffic and private property and only approach the bus after it has stopped and the entrance door is opened. In the P.M. students who must cross the street where the bus is stopped must follow the bus driver's directions for being escorted across the street. **STUDENTS MUST CROSS THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE BUS, BETWEEN THE BUS AND THE BUS DRIVER. NO ONE IS TO CROSS THE STREET WHEN THE BUS IS AT THE STOP WITHOUT DIRECTION FROM THE BUS DRIVER.**

Bus Danger Zones:

The bus driver shall give instruction to students regarding the danger zone prior to departing on all activity trips and during the required safe riding practice instruction that is given at least once each school year. Students who are boarding and leaving school buses shall do so very carefully, walking clear of the danger zone. If students are not met on time at the bus stop for pick up, they will be returned to the school.

How Will my Child Know Which Bus to Ride?

Each school will have a complete list of buses that will serve its particular area. Parents should go over the bus schedule with their children, explaining which route number and stop is to be

used. (The route number is what we go by and is found on the side of the bus by the door.) Notes signed and dated by the Parent/Guardian must be sent to the school office, if other than the regular bus stop is to be used. Prior to the afternoon departures, the aides and teachers at the schools will assist in loading the children to make sure they are on the correct bus. If a student is in doubt if this is his/her bus stop or bus, once he/she is on the bus, he/she should tell the bus driver.

What About Two-Way Radios?

For student safety and route control, each bus is equipped with a two-way radio. The Transportation Department is in constant communication with each bus on its scheduled runs. If there is a problem, such as the bus running late, or perhaps a student getting on the wrong bus, the Transportation Department will be able to contact the bus and make the necessary corrections.

Audio/Visual Recording Devices:

Hesperia Unified School District Buses may be equipped with audio/visual recording devices. These audio/visual recording devices are used in an effort to increase our driver's ability to provide the safest possible ride to everyone we transport.

What Can I do When the Bus Does Not Arrive on Time?

If you are reasonably sure the delay is not due to weather conditions, please allow at least fifteen (15) minutes before pushing the panic button. School buses have to endure the same traffic conditions that plague commuters. A traffic problem or a longer than schedule loading at a previous bus stop or school site, can easily throw your bus 10-15 minutes off schedule. If at the end of 15 minutes your bus has still not arrived, you may call the Transportation Department at 760.244.4022.

Rules of Conduct:

Students must adhere to the following rules of conduct:

1. Obey the directions of the bus driver at all times.
2. Remain seated at all times.
3. Never throw any objects.
4. No gum, candy, or food is allowed on the bus.
5. Keep the bus aisle clear.
6. Refrain from bringing glass containers, animals, or large objects on the school bus.
7. Keep all parts of the body (hand, arm, head, etc.) inside the bus at all times.
8. California law requires seat belts to be worn when the bus is equipped.
9. Profanity or vulgar language is absolutely prohibited.
10. Students may not be in possession of any controlled substance (tobacco, alcohol, etc.)

11. Do not vandalize, deface or destroy bus interiors or glass, exteriors, personal property of other passengers, or private property at bus stops. Bus riding privileges will be suspended until restitution is made. The parent/guardian having custody of a student who commits vandalism will be liable for up to \$10,000 damage.
12. Do not fight (automatic 10 days off the bus). This applies to all students. (Fighting is defined as actual physical contact.)
13. Do not harass other students whether physically or verbally.
14. Get on/off the bus only at designated bus stop. Students who are required to cross the street or highway at a bus stop will cross in front of the bus with the red flashing lights, and under direction of the bus driver.
15. Keep quiet at the railroad tracks.
16. Do not play with emergency exit handles or doors.
17. Students will ride the same bus route every day. Students are not able to change their bus routes or temporarily ride on a different route. Any transportation changes (i.e, as a result of moving, custody changes, etc.) must be pre approved by the transportation office.
18. No skateboards, razor scooters, or any other similar devices are allowed on the bus. They may not be brought on the bus or stored under the bus.
19. All rules of conduct apply to the bus stop and bus loading/unloading zones.
20. All students grade K-12, MUST present, to the bus driver, their bus pass upon entering the bus. Students without a valid bus pass may be denied transportation.
21. Be on the right hand side of the roadway at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
22. Do not smoke or vape at the bus stop or on the bus (automatic 5 day bus suspension)
23. Use of cellular phones is PROHIBITED while on the school bus.
24. Talk in a quiet manner, no horse play.
25. Remain seated, facing the front of the bus. Passengers may be assigned seats by the bus driver.