

Melissa ISD School Bus Safety Rules and Consequences

The school bus is an extension of the school day. All rules and guidelines in the Student Code of Conduct apply on the school bus.

Rules defining student conduct are designed to protect the passengers and include, but are not limited to the following:

- The bus driver is in charge of students on the bus and his/her directions regarding bus safety must be followed at all times.
- Surveillance cameras are used on Melissa ISD buses to ensure student and driver safety.
- Only authorized personnel and eligible bus riders are permitted to ride that bus. Students will not be allowed to ride any bus other than their assigned bus. (**Guest riders are not allowed on Melissa ISD bus routes**).
- Emergency transportation may be granted on a temporary basis by the Director of Transportation, Weston Bartlett.
- **Notes from parents/guardian will not be accepted as authorization to ride a bus.**
- Secondary students in 6th through 12th grades are not permitted to ride on elementary routes.
- Buses will stop at designated stops only. Those stops are assigned by the Transportation Department based on the student's recorded home address. Students are to arrive at their bus stop (5) five minutes before their pick up time. Students will wait next to (but not in) the street, driveway or parking lot. Students must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching to board or standing to leave the bus.
- Parents assume responsibility for their students traveling to and from home and the bus stop.
- Students will remain properly seated (facing forward keeping feet on the floor in front of them) at all times and not block the center aisle.
- Students must keep their hands, head, feet and personal objects inside the bus at all times.
- **Scuffling, shoving, hitting, or fighting is prohibited on the bus and at designated bus stops. Zero tolerance will be applied.**
- Littering or throwing items inside or from the bus is prohibited.
- Students are not allowed to consume candy, food or drink on the bus. (Exception: During extreme heat, drivers may allow students to consume water only.)
- Students shall not deface or vandalize the bus or related equipment. Students who violate this rule will be required to pay for damages and lose their bus privileges.
- Students may not yell, use profanity, abusive or inappropriate language, display obscene gestures or gang signs.
- Students are not to engage in verbal or physical behavior that constitutes Sexual Harassment of another person.
- Students shall comply with the Melissa ISD dress code on all buses.
- Students are not allowed to bring animals on the bus.
- Students are not allowed to bring harmful objects on the bus (i.e., weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, laser lights, etc.).

- Band instruments or class projects are allowed on Melissa ISD buses provided they can be held by the student, fit in the seat with the student, do not interfere with the availability of seating for other students, and do not interfere with the safety of students or bus operation. In the event that any of these conditions exist, parents must provide an alternate means of transporting their child's instrument and/or project to and from school.
- Students are not to engage in any other conduct that disrupts the safe operation of the bus.
- **Parents of PK and Kinder students must accompany their students to and from the bus stop. Students of this age group will not be allowed to exit the bus without an adult at the stop to receive them.**

CONSEQUENCES:

The bus driver will report misconduct to the Coordinator of Student Services using a bus safety report. Copies of the report will be sent to the parent, school principal and will be placed on file in the Transportation Department.

Video and audio surveillance may be in operation on your child's bus to help in maintaining a safe and orderly bus. Federal law prohibits the school district from releasing the video to any member of the public except law enforcement officials (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

If necessary, inappropriate behavior will be investigated through the use of student interviews and video review – parents will be notified of the results.

Students who violate bus safety rules may receive the following consequences:

First Violation: Written Warning

Second Violation: Three-Day Bus Suspension

Third Violation: Ten-Day Bus Suspension

Fourth Violation: Indefinite Suspension from Bus for the remainder of that academic year

EXCEPTION: IF A STUDENT'S CONDUCT SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZES THE SAFETY OF THE OTHER STUDENTS AND/OR THE DRIVER OR ENGAGES IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, A SUSPENSION WILL BE IMMEDIATELY PLACED INTO EFFECT.

Education Code 37.126. Disruption of Transportation: Except as provided by Section 37.125, a person commits an offense if the person intentionally disrupts, prevents or interferes with the lawful transportation of children to or from school or an activity sponsored by a school on a vehicle owned or operated by a county or independent school district. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.