

EAST CHAMBERS ISD'S

BUS RIDER SAFETY HANDBOOK 2026 - 2027

I have received the Bus Rider's Safety Handbook and agree to abide by these rules.

Please let us know if the following information changes during the year.

Student's Name

Parent's Names (Please Print)

Parent Signature

Parent Signature

Physical Address (Please Print)

Home Telephone

Mailing Address (If different from above)

Work Telephone (Emergency)

Other Contact Number(s)

Person Being Contacted

School Attending

Grade

D - _____
Bus Number

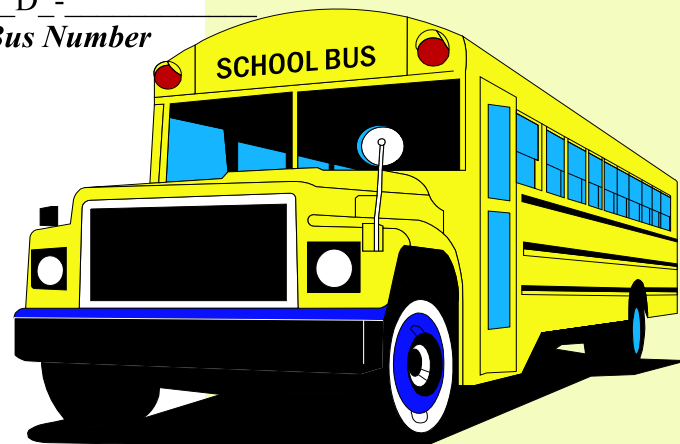
THIS PAGE IS USED TO MAINTAIN AN
ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF ALL STUDENTS WHO
RIDE DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION.

EAST CHAMBERS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

safety



****Please read, fill out, sign, and return front cover sheet to the Bus Driver promptly.**

Dear Parents:

The East Chambers Independent School District provides bus transportation to and from school as a courtesy service for all students residing in the District. The State of Texas prescribes the conditions governing school bus operations and funds the service by allotting the District a given amount for eligible students transported.

Eligible students are defined by State statutes as those residing in the District at least two miles from the school they should attend, as measured by the nearest practical public road, which may or may not be the road used by the school bus. East Chambers I.S.D. has chosen to provide transportation for all students, even those within the 2-mile range, as defined by the State.

In order to meet the conditions outlined by the State and provide safe, prompt movement of students, the School District has adopted standard regulations and procedures and has provided restrictive measures for violations of the rules. They are outlined for your information and for the guidance of your child.

The School District is pleased to provide transportation for its students and solicits your assistance in helping create a safe, healthy operation. You may do so by reading the enclosed material and acknowledge receipt by completing the front page. We ask your cooperation with school personnel in developing proper behavior patterns for those pupils who ride buses.

If you should need information concerning student misconduct on buses, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank You,

Toby Kahla
Operations Director

Statistics across the nation indicate that the safest way for a student to get to or from school is on a school bus.

BUS RIDER'S SAFETY HANDBOOK

****Please read, fill out, sign, and return front cover sheet to the Bus Driver promptly.**

PARENTS and BUS RIDERS

The goal of this Bus Rider's Handbook is to help provide a safe and enjoyable experience for children and adults who ride school buses. Parents should take time to read and discuss the materials in this handbook with their children. Riding a school bus is a privilege provided by the school district and should be treated as such. The Student information cover sheet is to be completed and turned into the Driver within three days.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

1. Obey the instruction of the Bus Driver. At no time will a student act toward, or address comments to a Bus Driver in a disrespectful manner, or refuse to cooperate with the driver.
2. Board and leave the bus at designated stops only.
3. Only students who are eligible to ride may be transported and must ride their assigned bus.
4. Do not ask to ride home on another bus with a friend, unless there is a note written by a parent and signed through the school office. This note must be presented to the driver or you will not be allowed to ride.

NOTE* It is the responsibility of the parents to provide transportation to and from school if a child misses the bus, or is suspended from the bus.

PROCEDURES FOR WAITING FOR THE BUS

1. Be at your bus stop ten minutes before scheduled pick-up. Driver will not wait or honk.
2. Stand on the driveway or back from the roadway while waiting for the bus.
3. When the bus approaches, form a line and be prepared to load immediately.
4. Stand clear of the bus until it comes to a complete stop.
5. ***IF YOU MISS THE BUS, GO HOME IMMEDIATELY.***
6. Parents should instruct their children on what procedures to follow if the bus is missed.
7. Students will abide by East Chambers ISD's rules and regulations concerning bus students, including school conduct and dress code.

LOADING THE BUS

1. Do not push or shove.
2. Use the handrail and steps.
3. Go to your seat. The bus will not move until all students are seated.
4. Students from the first stop will be assigned in the back of the bus, until the last students picked up are seated in the front, unless otherwise assigned by the Bus Driver.

CONDUCT ON THE BUS

****Please read, fill out, sign, and return front cover sheet to the Bus Driver promptly.**

1. Remain seated while the bus is moving.
2. Do not change seats. The Driver is authorized to assign seats.
3. A student shall not refuse to sit in an assigned seat or deny another a place to sit.
4. Each student will be expected to remain seated for the duration of the trip, and remain seated until the bus door opens.
5. Normal conversation is permitted; any loud noises may distract the Driver and create an unsafe condition.
6. Scuffling, fighting, and the use of obscene, vulgar, or profane language and gestures are forbidden.
7. Do not throw objects inside or outside of the bus. Any damages will be the responsibility of the person causing them.
8. Do not mark, cut, or scratch any part of the bus. Vandalism costs will be paid by the person who is responsible.
9. Students shall never attempt to operate the passenger door or other driver controls except in cases of extreme emergency.
10. Students shall face forward for the duration of the trip, and shall keep their feet on the floor in front of them and out of the bus aisle.

GETTING OFF THE BUS

1. Stay seated until the bus is completely stopped.
2. Use the handrail and take one step at a time when leaving the bus.
3. Wait for your turn to leave the bus; pushing and crowding will only slow exiting and may cause an accident.
4. You must use your assigned stop at all times, (A.M. and P.M. routes).
5. Stay clear of the bus when the engine is started. Do not chase or hang on to the bus at any time.
6. If any article drops or rolls near or under the bus, do not go after it. Go to the door of the bus and ask the driver for help.

CROSSING THE STREET OR HIGHWAY

1. All students living on the left side of the roadway shall exit the bus and move to a point 10 to 15 feet in front of the right bumper and wait for the driver to signal them that it is safe to cross.
2. Check in both directions and walk directly across the road.
3. Never cross the road behind the bus.
4. Always stay at least ten (10) feet away from the sides of the bus.
5. **CAUTION !** Be alert for the vehicles that do not stop when the bus is loading or unloading students.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

****Please read, fill out, sign, and return front cover sheet to the Bus Driver promptly.**

1. Tobacco (all types including vapes, e-cigarettes, etc)
2. Live/Dead animals or insects
3. Glass Containers
4. Alcoholic Beverages
5. Weapons, explosive devices, harmful drugs or chemicals. (Any instrument that can be used to harm someone else)
6. Any object (musical instrument, shop project, etc.) too large for the student's lap. All other items must be kept on the student's lap at all times.
7. Matches or cigarette lighters.
8. Food or Drinks (no eating or drinking on the bus is permitted, unless authorized by the driver).
9. Radios, tape players, CD players, ipods, headsets, cell phones, or pagers.
10. No hair brushing/combing is permitted on the bus. (Also includes applying make-up)
11. No Laser lights/Pens, mirrors, or flashlights.
12. Perfumes, colognes, body spray, hair spray (aerosol cans, or pump spray containers).
13. Skateboards/Skates/Hockey equipment.
14. Toys of any kind that could cause a disturbance on the bus.

ACCIDENTS OR EMERGENCIES

1. FOLLOW THE DRIVER'S INSTRUCTIONS.
2. If you must leave the bus, stay in a group.
3. The following procedures will be used for evacuation in an emergency situation:
 - A. The student nearest the door will open the door and hold it open.
 - B. Leave the bus in a single file line as quietly and as quickly as possible.
 - C. Evacuation will start with the seat closest to the door.
 - D. Once outside the bus, follow the driver's instructions completely.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS

1. Bus rider rules apply to all school-sponsored events.
2. Discipline, while on a trip, will be the responsibility of the trip sponsor. A student can receive a bus infraction report for conduct during an extra-curricular trip.
3. The bus MUST RETURN CLEAN when returning from the trip.

CAMERAS

East Chambers I.S.D. HAS PLACED AUDIO/VIDEO CAMERAS ON ITS BUSES. THE PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE SAFETY FOR THE STUDENTS AS WELL AS THE DRIVER. OUR GOAL IS TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL IN THE SAFEST POSSIBLE MANNER. IF STUDENTS FOLLOW BUS RULES, HE/SHE WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS. THE STUDENT DISCIPLINE COORDINATOR, THE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, AND THE BUILDING PRINCIPALS MAY USE THE VIDEO TAPE IN DISCIPLINARY MATTERS. ALL CAMERAS ARE MECHANICAL, AND THEREFORE MAY HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM TIME TO TIME FOR REPAIRS OR UPGRADES. ALL DISCIPLINE RULES APPLY WHETHER OR NOT A CAMERA IS FUNCTIONAL.

NOTE: When interviewing students regarding bus discipline, students may be video taped for future reference.

SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE

****Please read, fill out, sign, and return front cover sheet to the Bus Driver promptly.**

THE SCHOOL BUS IS AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM, AND DISCIPLINE WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE BUILDING PRINCIPAL. ALL SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES THAT APPLY TO STUDENT CONDUCT AND OTHER STUDENT RELATED ACTIVITIES APPLY TO THE SCHOOL BUS AND RIDING PRIVILEGES MAY BE SUSPENDED FOR VIOLATION OF THE RULES.

If at any time you wish to contact the Transportation Department regarding Discipline on a bus, please call

Matt Fowler	High School Principal	296-6100
Kelsea Broomas	Junior High Principal	296-6100
Britnie Bordelon	Elementary Principal	296-6100
Julie McLendon	Primary Principal	296-6100

****DISCIPLINE IS DETERMINED BY EAST CHAMBERS ISD TRANSPORTATION RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SCHOOL BUS RIDERS. DISCIPLINE IS HANDLED THROUGH THE BUILDING PRINCIPALS.**

BUS FACTS

*** BUSES COST FROM \$170,000 - \$185,000 EACH AND MAY REQUIRE UP TO ONE YEAR FOR DELIVERY.**

*** ALL EAST CHAMBERS ISD BUSES ARE EQUIPPED WITH COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, WHICH IS USED TO REPORT ROUTE DELAYS, BREAKDOWNS, ACCIDENTS, TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES AND STRANDED MOTORISTS.**

*** OPERATIONS ARE FUNDED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS BASED ON APPROVED MILEAGE, PLUS A PORTION OF E.C.I.S.D. TAX REVENUE.**

***** RIDING A BUS IN E.C.I.S.D. IS A PRIVILEGE, WHICH MAY BE REVOKED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES OF CONDUCT.*****

YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY IS OUR FIRST AND FOREMOST CONCERN. WORKING TOGETHER WILL ALLOW US TO ENSURE THAT HIS/HER EXPERIENCE ON AN EAST CHAMBERS ISD BUS IS A SAFE AND POSITIVE ONE.

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