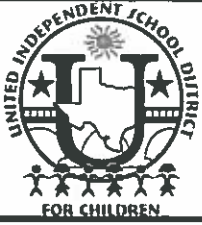


No. _____



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

TOPIC: Proposed Changes to the 2021-2022 Student Handbook (Bus Rider Handbook & Technology Use Guide)

SUBMITTED BY: Annette Perez **OF:** Student Relations/Discipline Management

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: July 21, 2021

The Student Handbook (Bus Rider Handbook & Technology Use Guide) was reviewed by individual department directors and coordinators. Recommended changes were submitted to Ruben R. Ayala.

On May 17, 2021, all recommended changes to the Student Handbook (Bus Rider Handbook & Technology Use Guide) were presented and approved by the District Educational Improvement Council composed of administrators, teachers, parents, and community members and additional input was obtained at that time.

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

TECHNOLOGY USE GUIDELINES (“T.U.G.”)

The Use of District Computers, Networks, Internet and Electronic Mail: UISD Procedures and Technology Use(r) Guidelines serve to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate materials that are harmful to students and minors via the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, and/or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access, including hacking and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students and minors; (d) ensure student safety and security when using electronic communications as well as comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)]; and (e) educate students about cyberbullying awareness and response and about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking web sites and chat rooms. 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B)(iii)

The District is pleased to offer students access to a 1:1 Mobile Learning Devices, computer network, the Internet, electronic mail and educational software on its network. To obtain access to the Internet, electronic mail, network, and web-based programs and acquire a checked out District device, all students must obtain parental permission via the District online registration system and sign all the required agreements: Technology User Guidelines, 1:1 MLD Checkout Agreement and The Use of District Computers, Networks, Internet and Electronic Mail Parental Permission Form and User Agreement. Should a parent prefer that a student not have a device, Internet access, electronic mail, or access to web-based educational programs it must be noted on the individual students online registration and on each of the agreements. Please note that the denial of use does not include the use of devices required to complete technology-based coursework.

The District defines harmful to students and minors as any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to students and minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
 2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for students and minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to students and minors.
- 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(7)(G); 20 U.S.C. 7131(e)(6)

What are some of the benefits of having access to the Internet? Access to the Internet and electronic mail will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information and to exchange personal communication with other Internet users around the world. Even though the District provides filtering of Internet content, families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purposes of the school are to use Internet resources for constructive educational goals, students might find ways to access other materials. There are more advantages for students to have access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information resources.

What are the student responsibilities with regard to the use of District issued equipment, District equipment and web-based instructional programs? In consideration for the privilege of using the District’s electronic communications system, and having access to District issued equipment (MLD’s and Assistive Technology Equipment) that can be used on personal, private or public networks, parents release the District, its operators, and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child’s use of, or inability to use, the system, including, without limitation, the type of damage identified in this Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, this Technology User Guidelines, and 1:1 MLD Manuals. Parents or guardians should discuss with their child(ren) the responsibilities required for her/him as well as the parental responsibilities.

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the District’s Local Area Network (LAN) just as they are in a District or virtual classroom. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. Users shall comply with District standards and the specific rules, procedures and Technology Use Guidelines, 1:1 MLD Guidelines and Procedures set forth below, and the District’s Student Code of Conduct. The use of the Local Area Network and any District issued device is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions and care with regard to accessing and utilizing the District’s Technology Resources. The students are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see. If a student accesses any inappropriate material they need to report it immediately to a teacher, campus behavior coordinator, and/or campus administrator. Consequences to violation(s) of guidelines and/or responsibilities outlined in the UISD Technology Use Guidelines and/or The Student Parent Regulations and Guidelines, please refer to Section IV of the District’s Student Code of Conduct.

What are the rules, procedures and Technology Use Guidelines?

Monitoring – The District’s content and monitoring management software will constantly be monitoring user activity of minors and any other user’s use of the Internet and any computing activity. The District has the right to and will monitor and generate reports that provide detailed user activity. If any user abuses or is suspected of abusing the privilege of Internet access, violating any guidelines, or misusing the Internet, a detailed report will be generated by the content and monitoring management software. (Technology Protection, Children’s Internet Protection Act) 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B).

Filtering – Each District computer with Internet access has an electronic filter device and software that blocks access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, inappropriate for students, or harmful to minors, as defined by the federal Children’s Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee. Upon approval from the Superintendent or designee, an administrator, campus behavior coordinator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Privacy - You should not disclose your password to anyone else, nor should you use someone else's password. You are responsible for all activities done within or through your account. You should not attempt to circumvent passwords, access codes, or other security related information or protection schemes nor should you attempt to uncover security loopholes or attempt to break authentication procedures or encryption protocols. The Children's Internet Protection Act prohibits unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors.

Anonymous Activity - You may not impersonate other individuals in electronic communication.

Illegal Activity - You should not use the District's electronic systems for any illegal activity. The Children's Internet Protection Act prohibits unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities.

Electronic Mail Usage (Email) – Electronic mail communication is the District's official form of communication. Electronic mail facilitates and supports educational and administrative communication. Access to the District's email system by students, teachers, staff and administrators is a privilege not a right. Users are to comply with all of the District's rules, guidelines, procedures, regulations, and policies governing appropriate use of the electronic mail system. Email transmissions made using the District's network or email system are NOT PRIVATE and are subject to monitoring or investigation of the user's activities. Email is public information and is subject to open records requests made by the public, supervisor and parents.

Any information that is protected by the Family Educational and Privacy Act (FERPA) transmitted via electronic mail must be encrypted prior to transmission. The District uses a 128-bit encryption standard.

Copying and/or Copyrights - For information of which the individual or the District does not hold the copyright, written permission from the copyright holder is required prior to duplication. Academic dishonesty or plagiarism in a student assignment is unethical. Suspected occurrences are referred to the student's school.

Harassment - Electronic system usage or information that is perceived by its recipient as sexual harassment as defined by the District's policy may be considered a violation. The display of offensive material in any publicly accessible area is likely to violate the District's harassment policy. Public display includes publicly accessible computer screens and printers.

Harassment is a Class B Misdemeanor; however, it is punishable up to a Class A Misdemeanor. Effective September 1, 2021, a person commits the crime of harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another, the person publishes on an Internet website, including a social media platform, repeated electronic communications in a manner reasonably likely to cause emotional distress, abuse, or torment to another person, unless the communications are made in connection with a matter of public concern. TEXAS PENAL CODE § 42.07.

Note: - The 86th Texas Legislature created the offense of Online Harassment, which was amended by the 87th Texas Legislature to Online Impersonation, which can be 3rd degree felony, for the use of the name or persona of another person to create a web page or to post one or more messages on a commercial networking site without obtaining the other person's consent. The perpetrator must have the intent to harm, defraud, intimidate or threaten the other person. The 87th Texas Legislature also created the civil offense of using a computer for an unauthorized purpose. More information regarding this law can be found within HB 1663 and SB 23 on the Texas Legislative Website at www.legis.state.tx.us

Online impersonation is a Class A Misdemeanor; however, it is punishable up to a felony of the third degree. A person commits the crime of online impersonation if the person sends an electronic mail, instant message, text message, or similar communication that references a name, domain address, phone number, or other item of identifying information belonging to any person: (1) without obtaining the other person's consent; (2) with the intent to cause a recipient of the communication to reasonably believe that the other person authorized or transmitted the communication; and (3) with the intent to harm or defraud any person. TEXAS PENAL CODE § 33.07.

Inappropriate uses, materials and/or language – The Children's Internet Protection Act's description of inappropriate network usages includes: (a) using electronic mail other than the adopted official electronic mail supported by UISD, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications, as required; (b) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; (c) the use of profane, abusive or impolite language when communicating electronically; and (d) accessing materials which are not in line with the rules of school behavior, and/or any visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to students and minors, and (e) or while using the District's approved online and virtual platforms. Should students encounter such material by accident, they should report it to their teacher immediately. Students are not to provide any personal information online that is not directly supervised by their campus administration. Unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding students and minors is prohibited. UISD's authorized staff will monitor usage of the District's online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with CQ Local Policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Disclosure, Use, and Dissemination of Personal Information Regarding Minors – All personally identifiable information regarding minors is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). All open records requests submitted to the District must be approved by the Department of the Associate Superintendent for Student Support Services or designee. Any personally identifiable information regarding minors that is transmitted using electronic mail must be encrypted in 128-bit standard minimum prior to transmission.

Chat Rooms, Newsgroups Usage and Discussion Groups – Users are not allowed to participate in chat rooms, newsgroups or discussion groups. Approval from the Department of Curriculum & Instruction is required if participation in chat rooms, newsgroups, or discussion groups is part of an educational project. The Department of Information Technology will establish access to the chat rooms, newsgroups or discussion groups for a set timeframe, as required by the approved educational project. The District has the right to block any abuse or violations of use, even if the chat room, newsgroup, discussion group was approved. The Children’s Internet Protection Act prohibits unauthorized online disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification regarding minors.

Wasting Resources - It is unethical to deliberately perform any act which will impair the operation of any electronic system or deny access by legitimate users to any electronic system. This includes the willful wasting of resources and sending of “junk mail” and “mail bombs” (This includes “chain letters” and “spam”).

General District policy prohibits non-District use of District facilities. The District electronic systems may not be used for:

- solicitation not related to official District business;
- commercial gain or placing a third party in a position of commercial advantage or non-District related activities;
- impeding teaching and research;
- hindering the functioning of the District;
- violating an applicable license or contract; or
- damaging community relations or relations with institutions with whom we share responsibility.

What other guidelines must be followed? The following are guidelines to follow to prevent the loss of network privileges:

1. Users shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else’s computer files, programs, or drives.
2. Users shall not share names, log-on passwords, or files for any reason.
3. Users shall not use or try to discover another user’s password, or circumvent passwords or other security-related information of the District, its students, or its employees.
4. Users shall not delete, alter or share their enrollment status while using the Online Classroom Platform.
5. Users shall not use UISD computers or networks for any non-instructional or non-administrative purpose (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).
6. Users shall not use a computer for unlawful purposes, such as the illegal copying or installation of software.
7. Users shall not alter, destroy, or disable District technology resources. Further, users shall not copy, change or transfer any software, documentation, or District data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the District’s system, including off school property, without written permission from the campus principal and Director of Technology.
8. Whether the users are on or off school property, they shall not upload, write, produce, generate copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer’s memory, file system, or software (e.g., a bug, virus, worm, Trojan Horse, or similar malware).
9. Users shall not deliberately use the Internet or a computer to annoy, threaten, or harass District students, employees, Board members, or volunteers with language, images, or threats, including off school property, if the conduct causes, or can cause, a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
10. Users shall not deliberately access or create any obscene or sexually related materials, except for curriculum-related materials and as assigned.
11. Users shall not assemble or disassemble computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as part of a class assignment or in conjunction with a job responsibility.
12. Users shall not remove technology equipment (hardware or software) without written permission through United ISD Checkout Form signed by the principal and/or Information Technology Director and/or Instructional Technology Director.
13. STUDENTS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE for their actions and for the loss of privileges if the Technology Use Guidelines are violated.
14. Users shall not run or execute unauthorized applications from external devices (such as games, anonymizer web proxies, hacking tools), or use pen drives and/or mapped drives.
15. Users shall not send, post, or possess electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and “sexting,” either on or off school property, if the conduct causes, or can cause, a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the right of another student at school.
16. Users shall not use the internet or other electronic communications to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property, if the conduct causes, or can cause, a substantial disruption to the educational environment or infringes on the right of another student at school.
17. Users of the District’s technology resources and/or network must sign and abide by the rules and guidelines defined in the UISD Mobile Learning Device: Guidelines and Procedures, the UISD Student and Parent Chromebook Manual: Regulations and Guidelines; and the District’s Student Code of Conduct.

Parental Agreement

I have read UISD's "Technology Use Guidelines." In consideration for the privilege of my child using UISD's technology resources, I hereby release UISD, its operators, and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child's use of, or inability to use, these resources. This includes, without limitation, the type of damage identified in UISD's School Board Policy.

I understand that my child's use of UISD's technology resources is not private, and that UISD will monitor my child's activity. I understand that the District uses certain cloud-based (online) applications, and such applications [such as "Google Apps for Education," a/k/a the Google Collaborative Environment, or online grade books] that allow authorized school officials to access student information, including assignments and grades, through the Internet for school-related purposes. A list of online applications and the nature and type of student information used will be provided on request by emailing sgraytan@uisd.net or call (956) 473-6474.

Students/Parents who choose to check out technology devices (iPads, Chromebooks, MIFI's) for school or home use will be required to sign UISD STUDENT/PARENT TECHNOLOGY DEVICE CHECKOUT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/AGREEMENT FORM and abide by the requirements of technology use for instructional purposes stated within in addition to accepting the guidelines regarding devices that are lost, stolen or broken

TRANSPORTATION: BUS RIDER'S HANDBOOK

Our goal in the Transportation Department is to provide safe and efficient transportation to and from school for all students attending the United Independent School District. As we enter a new school year, please take the time to read this very important Bus Rider's Handbook. It explains regulations, gives procedures, and provides useful information designed to render the best transportation service possible to your children. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Transportation Department:

Jose E. Aranda - Executive Director of Transportation

North Compound: (956) 473-6330 Fax: (956)473-6260 Address: 501 Eden Lane; Laredo, Texas 78045

Danny W. Trevino - Operations Administrator of Transportation (North)

East Compound: (956) 473-1955 Fax: (956)473-1992 Address: 405 E.G. Ranch Road Hwy 359; Laredo, Texas 78043

Javier Rangel - Operations Administrator of Transportation (East)

South Compound: (956) 473-5230 Fax: (956)473-5239 Address: 5256 Cielito Lindo Blvd., Laredo, Texas 78046

David Hernandez - Operations Administrator of Transportation (South)

Annie T. Salinas – Transportation Planning Analyst

Transportation Hours of Operation: Every school day from 5:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Transportation Department Office Hours: Every school day from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

After hours emergency calls should be placed to "UISD PD Dispatch" at (956) 473-6361

All students have the right to a safe and pleasant trip to and from school, or on school-sponsored trips. We believe all students can behave appropriately and safely while riding on a school bus. We cannot tolerate any student interfering with drivers, bus assistants, and other professionals doing their jobs, and we continuously work toward protecting each passenger's right to a safe ride.

Introduction: This "Bus Rider's Handbook" is designed to inform school bus riders and parents of regulations and procedures under which students are allowed to ride school buses.

To The Bus Rider: Students who have the privilege of bus transportation to and from school also have the responsibility to make the trip pleasant and safe for all. Good bus etiquette, simply stated, is good manners. You are expected to display the same good manners on the bus as you would in the classroom.

To The Parents: The school bus is a key to a better education. It means that your children can go to better schools, despite the distance. Riding a bus trains students in safety, responsibility, independence and courtesy. Familiarize yourself of the bus number your child rides. Please go over the "Bus Rider's Handbook" with your child so that he/she will know that you, as well as UISD, expect them to follow the simple rules outlined here. Should problems arise, feel free to discuss them with your child's principal, appropriate administrator or with the District's Transportation Department. Please call the UISD Transportation Department at (956) 473-6330 (North Compound), (956) 473-5230 (South Compound), or (956) 473-1955 (East Compound) to report unsafe drivers. Please have the bus number, date, time, and location of the incident noted when calling. Temporary use of a bus outside of a student's bus route must be approved by a campus administrator and/or Transportation Dept. and communicated to the bus driver.

To The Bus Driver: United Independent School District regards student transportation to and from schools and on special trips as a serious responsibility and takes every precaution to ensure student safety. During bus rides, the driver has the same authority that a teacher has in the classroom. Riders are expected to respect this authority and to behave in such a way that the driver will not be distracted while operating the bus.

All UISD bus drivers have valid driver's licenses from the Texas Department of Public Safety. In addition, they have completed a 20-hour School Bus Driver Certification course covering first aid, passenger loading and unloading, bus upkeep and other important information, and have met UISD standards for bus drivers. Every three years, drivers are required to take an eight-hour DPS refresher course.

At The Bus Stop: The following safety tips for school bus riders are recommended:

- Leave home in time to reach the bus stop approximately five minutes ahead of the bus. Arriving later may make you and other riders late to school. Arriving earlier exposes you unnecessarily to traffic.
- If there are no sidewalks on your route to the bus stop, walk on the left side of the street or road, facing traffic. Stay as far off the road as possible.
- If you are walking with others where there are no sidewalks, walk in a single file line.
- Do not stand in the street to wait for the bus or step into the street to look for it.
- When the bus approaches, stand back at a safe distance until the bus has come to a complete halt.
- Animals and pets of any kind are not allowed on a UISD bus.
- It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to receive student riders at their designated bus stop.
- For Pre-K and Kinder students, parents/guardians are required to receive their child at the bus stop. Otherwise, Pre-K or Kinder students will be returned to their school, unless the parent/guardian has made other arrangements with the Transportation Department.

All Aboard:

- Line up with younger children first and board in a safe and orderly manner.
- Use the handrail as you go up the steps, one at a time.
- Take your assigned seat and remain in it until the bus has come to a complete halt at your school.
- Do not open or lean against windows. Some are designed to pop out under pressure in case of an emergency.
- Do not ask to leave the bus at any point other than at your school or home bus stop.
- Report any damage, such as a loose seat or window latch, to the driver as you leave.
- Move immediately away from the loading zone. Wait for friends away from the bus.
- Students are responsible for any personal belongings they bring into the bus, so please make sure you do not leave anything behind in the bus. Lost items are not the responsibility of the Transportation Department or driver.

For Safety's Sake:

- Except in an emergency situation, do not talk with the driver while the bus is in motion, especially not when the bus approaches a railroad crossing, bus stop/dropoff, or a busy intersection.
- Under no circumstances shall a student ride on the outside of the bus or extend their heads, hands, arms, or any other part of the body through the bus windows or doors.
- Objects must not be thrown, inside or outside of the bus.
- Do not occupy the driver's seat or tamper with bus controls.
- Riders crossing the road after they depart the bus must pass far enough in front of the bus (about 15 feet) to be in the driver's view and must never cross behind the bus. The student should cross the road only after checking that the way is clear and after receiving a signal from the driver. One exception to this rule will be in urban areas where pedestrian crossings are provided, and students are instructed to cross after the bus leaves or when a traffic light indicates.

Buses and Other School Vehicles: The District makes school bus transportation available to all students living two or more miles from school. This service is provided at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted on the District web site.

Students are expected to assist District staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding school buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; bus-riding privileges may be suspended. Vandalism of District buses, such as breaking windows, tearing a seat, drawing graffiti on seats, and similar offenses will result in a \$75 charge to the identified student. The student will also be suspended from transportation services until all charges have been collected at the Transportation Department.

When students ride in a District van or passenger car, seat belts must be fastened at all times.

Special Trips:

- Parents' written permission may be required by school principals or other appropriate administrators for trips made during school hours or out of town.
- Know the point of departure and be there on time. Be sure that your parents know the time that your bus is expected to return so they can meet the bus.
- Students are responsible for any personal belongings they take on field trips. Please make sure you do not leave these items behind in the bus.

School-Sponsored: Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal or other appropriate administrator, however, may make an exception. An exception may be allowed if the parent personally requests that the student be permitted to ride with the parent, or the parent presents-before the scheduled trip-a written request that the student be permitted to ride with an adult designated by the parent.

In An Emergency: Unless the driver is not available, remain seated until the driver tells you what you do. Do not panic.

- Do not touch emergency equipment or safety releases until you are told to do so.
- Let those closest to the doors exit first.
- Duck your heads as you leave the bus and wrap loose clothing around you so that it will not get caught.
- Keep your hands free; leave everything behind.
- If you must jump from the bus, bend your knees slightly as you jump.
- Move quickly away from the exit.

Rules For Riders: Riding the bus is a privilege and not a right. This privilege may be revoked for a justified cause. The privilege of being transported to and from school and on school trips depends on the rider's behavior and cooperation. This privilege may be withdrawn if the rider:

- Fails to observe proper safety rules.
- Disregards the authority of the bus driver or other adults in-charge.

- Behaves in a disorderly, distasteful (such as engaging in minor sexual acts, kissing and/or necking) or unsafe manner.
- Creates excessive noise, such as loud talking, screaming or whistling, or by playing radios, MP3 players or similar equipment.
- Abuses, defaces, or destroys property, equipment, or the bus. (Fines will be assessed)
- Fails to attend classes after riding the bus to school.
- Fights on the bus or at the bus stop.
- Handles the emergency equipment inside the bus (emergency doors, fire extinguisher, etc).
- Throws articles within the bus, out the windows of the bus, or at any other vehicle.
- Behaves in such a manner that he/she jeopardizes the safe operation of the bus.
- Fails to exhibit good manners toward all others on the bus through profanity, vulgar language, obscene gestures, insults, racial slurs, bullying, harassment, or other disruptive or abusive behavior.
- Cell phone recording of the voice or image of another person on the bus is strictly prohibited if it causes a disruption to the transportation of students or the recording/image is inappropriate or invades the privacy of others.

Prohibited Items: The following items will not be allowed on school buses:

- Tobacco in any form, e-cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any controlled substance. Being under the influence of such things is also prohibited on the bus.
- Firearms, clubs, knives, fireworks, and other dangerous objects.
- Large or heavy objects which would obstruct the bus aisles or otherwise create a hazard, unless permission is received in advance from the principal or other appropriate administrator and approved by the Transportation Department.

It is a criminal offense to intentionally exhibit, use, or threaten to exhibit or use a firearm in a manner intended to cause alarm or personal injury to another person or to damage school property in or on any property, including a parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area that is owned by a private or public school. This includes a school bus being used to transport children to or from school-sponsored activities of a private or public school.

Bus Behavior: Riding the bus is considered a “school related” and “school sponsored” activity where those terms appear in other sections of the Student Code of Conduct. Riding the bus is a privilege which may be temporarily suspended or permanently revoked at the discretion of the campus administrator if the conduct in question jeopardizes the safety of any individual or generally interferes with the safe operation of the bus. A bus driver that is transporting students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity may initiate a formal removal. The bus driver is allowed to refer the student to the administrator’s office in order to maintain discipline on the bus. The school principal or other administrator may be required to respond by employing appropriate disciplinary management techniques consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. The campus administrator has the authority and responsibility to discipline a student for any inappropriate conduct that occurs on the school bus. Disciplinary consequences shall be administered according to the level of the offense committed, which can include restricting or revoking a student’s bus riding privileges. Prior to a suspension or revocation of bus riding privileges for any student, the campus administrator shall consult with and receive input from the Director of Transportation regarding the proposed length of suspension or revocation. For more information about disciplinary consequences, see other sections of the Student Code of Conduct pertaining to Level I--Minor Offenses, Level II--Serious Offenses, Level III--DAEP Offenses, and Level IV--Expulsions.

PLEASE NOTE: Riding the bus is a privilege, which may be temporarily suspended or permanently revoked at the discretion of the campus principal or other administrator, if the conduct in question jeopardizes the safety of any individual or generally interferes with the safe operation of the bus. Prior to a suspension or revocation of bus riding privileges for any student, the campus principal or other administrator shall consult with and receive input from the Transportation Department regarding the proposed length of suspension or revocation. Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the principal or other administrator may restrict or revoke a student’s transportation privileges, in accordance with law. In accordance with the law, individuals (i.e. students, parents, guardians, relatives, volunteers, etc.) who interfere or disrupt transportation service may be arrested, cited, and/or fined.

Videotaping of Students: For safety purposes, video/audio surveillance equipment will be used to monitor student behavior on buses, school activities, district property, and in common areas on campus, in accordance with the Texas Educational Code Section 26.009. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used. The principal may review the tapes routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline shall be imposed in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

A parent who wants to view a videotape of the incident leading to the discipline of his or her child may request access in writing. The Superintendent/designee shall consider the request and render a decision in accordance with Board Policy FL and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 USCA 1232g). School officials may then share video footage with a parent only if the video does not disclose personally identifiable information regarding another student.