

Student Conduct on Buses/Vehicles

MESD-operated school buses/vehicles carrying students shall be considered extensions of the MESD school experience. All students using MESD transportation shall abide by the code of conduct posted in each bus or activity vehicle. Violations of the code of conduct, as well as other conduct which is improper or which jeopardizes the safety of self or others, shall be reported by the bus/vehicle driver to the component district Transportation Supervisor. The component district Transportation Supervisor shall, as soon as possible, inform the appropriate MESD program supervisor of such occurrence. Violators may be denied use of transportation for a period of time as deemed proper by the component district Transportation Supervisor who will immediately notify the appropriate MESD program supervisor.

The bus/vehicle driver shall be responsible for the school bus/vehicle at all times from departure until return. The driver shall not participate in any activities that might impair his/her driving abilities.

The MESD shall comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to school bus transportation:

1. The building principal or designee shall ensure transportation official and drivers receive notification of students having special medical or behavioral protocols identified in student records. Students violating bus rules will be afforded the procedural safeguards of the IDEA.
2. When considering student disciplinary procedures that may result in removal of the student, the MESD follows all special education procedures and ensures the parent and the student are afforded the procedural safeguards of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) if:
 - a. student is receiving IEP services;
 - b. For the student not yet identified as a student with a disability, the MESD had knowledge that the student had a disability and needed special education.

The following regulations shall govern student conduct on school buses and shall be posted in a conspicuous place in all buses:

1. Students being transported are under authority of the bus driver;
2. Fighting, wrestling or boisterous activity is prohibited on the bus;
3. Students shall use the emergency door only in case of emergency;
4. Students shall be on time for the bus, both morning and evening;
5. Students shall not bring firearms, weapons or other potentially hazardous material on the bus;

6. Students shall not bring animals, except approved assistance guide dogs or animals, on the bus;
7. Students shall remain seated while bus is in motion;
8. Students may be assigned seats by the bus driver;
9. When necessary to cross the road, students shall cross in front of the bus or as instructed by the bus driver;
10. Students shall not extend their hands, arms or heads through bus windows;
11. Students shall have written permission to leave the bus other than for home or school;
12. Students will converse in normal tones; loud or vulgar language is prohibited;
13. Students shall not open or close windows without permission of the driver;
14. Students shall keep the bus clean and shall refrain from damaging it;
15. Students shall be courteous to the driver, fellow students and passers-by;
16. Students who refuse to promptly obey the directions of the driver or refuse to obey regulations may forfeit their privilege to ride on the buses.

Students who violate bus rules of conduct may be denied the use of transportation.