



Transportation F.A.Q.

Q: Who may ride a school bus?

A: Students shall be eligible for transportation services to and from school if the distance between their school established bus stop and the school is beyond the distances listed below.

Grades K-2: three-fourths mile

Grades 3-5: one and one-half miles

Grades 6-8: three miles

Grades 9-12: not provided

Q: Will an elementary school student be dropped off at the bus stop if no adult is there?

A: ONLY PRE-SCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS are required to have a designated person at the bus stop to receive them. All students grades 1 through 8 need not have a designated person to receive them at the bus stop.

Q: What happens if there is no one to receive a preschool or kindergarten student at the bus stop?

A: Students will be returned to their school. It then will be the parent's responsibility to pick up the student(s). Transportation privileges may be suspended if a student is returned to school.

Q: What type of communication does the Transportation Department have with the bus drivers when they are transporting students?

A: All District buses are radio equipped. Radios are expressly used for the safety of students and to determine the whereabouts of a bus or student.

Q: How are the bus routes designed?

A: Routes are designed for safety efficiency and the conservation of time.

Q: When I'm present at my child's bus stop, may I walk my child across the street without the school bus driver's assistance?

A: NO. California law dictates that all students in grades Pre-K through 8 MUST be escorted by their school bus driver if they need to cross the street, even in the presence of the child's parent.

Q: Are school buses safe?

A: The Motor Carrier Division of the California Highway Patrol must certify all school buses owned by the Desert Sands Unified School District. Additionally, the terminal is inspected annually by the Motor Carrier Division to insure the buses are maintained according to state-established standards and an approved, documented maintenance program is in place.

Q: Are skate boards allowed on school buses?

A: No. For safety reasons skate boards are not allowed on school buses.

Q: Are large music instruments allowed on school buses for home to school transportation?

A: No. Large instruments are not allowed for safety reasons.

Q: How are school bus drivers trained?

A: All drivers must be certified by the California Highway Patrol. Prior to certification the driver must successfully complete a medical examination, complete twenty (20) hours of classroom training, complete twenty (20) hours of behind-the-wheel training, and pass a fingerprint and background check through state and federal levels. All drivers must also complete ten (10) hours of inservice training each year. Drivers must renew their licenses and certificate every 4-5 years.



Transportation F.A.Q. continued

Q: What are the discipline procedures when a student receives a bus "citation?"

A: The student shall be warned verbally for the first infraction unless the infraction is of an unusually severe nature.

First Citation: Student will be called into the school office and will be counseled and cautioned about his/her unsatisfactory behavior.

Second Citation: Student will be called into office. Parent/guardian will be called and informed of the student's unacceptable behavior. They will further be informed that the student's bus transportation privilege will be suspended or time spent in the intervention room on the next referral from the bus driver.

Third/Fourth Citation: Student will be called into office and informed that his/her transportation privilege has been suspended (for severe offenses) or that he/she must spend a stated amount of the lunch hour in the intervention room (for less severe offenses). The duration of transportation suspension or intervention will be at the discretion of the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Counselor with consultation rights retained by the Transportation Department and will depend on the severity of the unacceptable behavior.

After Third/Fourth Citations: After the Third/Fourth citation and notice of unsatisfactory conduct has been written on a student, and action has been taken, citation number 5, 6, etc... should result in time off the bus. Discipline slips are applicable for the current school year only and do not carry over to the next school year.

If student's bus privileges have been suspended on one bus, that suspension will be for all Desert Sands Unified School District buses to and from school.