



IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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www.ideapublicschools.org

IDEA BUS RIDER BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

At IDEA Public Schools our mission is to prepare students for college and citizenship. We believe that a rigorous college preparatory education, combined with a strong foundation rooted in professionalism, respect and accountability gives our students the best chance to succeed to and through college. We expect our students to adhere to this culture of high expectations in the classroom, and in all settings that comprise the IDEA community, including our buses.

IDEA is committed to excellent customer service in providing transportation services to students throughout the Rio Grande Valley and Central Texas. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of this free service. Transportation, however, is a PRIVILEGE. Families that exercise this privilege are expected to observe IDEA's culture of high expectations, and abide by the behavioral norms outlined in the student code of conduct, and specifically in this contract (please see the reverse side of this document for a detailed description of disciplinary consequences based on the most common offenses).

We, _____ (student's name) and _____ (name of parent or guardian), are committed to the road to and through college. We understand that a culture of high expectations in and out of the classroom is essential to achieving this goal. For this reason, we are committed to abiding by the expectations outlined in this bus ridership contract. I understand that failure to adhere to these expectations may result in temporary or permanent suspension of bus riding privileges.

Student's Bus Route

Date

Student Name & Grade

Parent Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Please complete and return this contract to the Campus Transportation Manager in order for your child to continue enjoying this free service.

IDEA BUS RIDER BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the free transportation provided by IDEA Public Schools. This transportation, however, is a PRIVILEGE, not a right! This privilege can be taken away if any student or parent violates the expectations set forth in this Bus Rider Behavior Contract.

Level I Incidents. Level I incidents are behaviors that are generally disruptive of the bus riding experience and can impact the normal and usual operations of the school bus. Students involved in Level I incidents will receive a Bus Rider Incident Report explaining the reasons for the report. The Campus Transportation Manager will meet with the student to validate the information collected. A copy of the report will be forwarded to APO (Assistant Principal of Operations); school's Academic Counselor and the Regional Transportation Manager to administer the appropriate discipline and to inform parents/guardians about the situation. The discipline may include, but is not limited to, after school detention, loss of fun activity privileges at school, and/or participation in field trips. **Habitual offenders will receive up to three (3) days suspension from the bus. Below are the most common Level I incidents:**

- Late arrival
- Sitting on the wrong side of the bus
- Standing without permission of the driver
- Walking in front of the bus
- Failure to follow bus driver requests (getting out of the bus, sitting down, quieting down, etc.)
- Excessive noise or loud music
- Eating/Drinking/Chewing Gum/Littering the bus
- Horseplay/Mischief
- Spitting
- Inappropriate or disruptive behavior toward other vehicles/drivers along-side the bus, or at the bus stop
- Other behaviors which disrupt the normal and usual operation of the school bus

Level II Incidents. Level II incidents are behaviors that directly disrespect bus drivers and can put in jeopardy the bus riders' own safety, or the safety of other students riding the bus. Students involved in Level II incidents will receive a Bus Rider Incident Report explaining the reasons for the report. The Campus Transportation Manager will meet with the student to validate the information collected. A copy of the report will be forwarded to APO (Assistant Principal of Operations); school's Academic Counselor and the Regional Transportation Manager to administer the appropriate discipline and to inform parents/guardians about the situation. The discipline may include, but is not limited to, after school detention, loss of fun activity privileges at school, and/or participation in field trips. **Habitual offenders will receive three (3) to five (5) days suspension from the bus. Below are the most common Level II incidents:**

- Refusing to properly identify yourself to the bus driver
- Throwing/shooting of any object in or out of the bus
- Vandalism to the bus or any bus related equipment (restitution will be required as well)
- Pushing, shoving, or rushing while waiting, entering, exiting the bus
- Unauthorized entering or leaving the bus through an emergency exit or window
- Hanging out of windows with any part of the body
- Disrupting the normal activities of a business where a stop is located
- Other offenses and behaviors that disrespect bus drivers, students, motoring public, or pedestrians

Level III Incidents. Level III incidents are most serious behavior problems. These actions put in jeopardy the bus driver and riders. Students involved in Level III incidents will receive a Bus Rider Incident Report explaining the reasons for the report. The Campus Transportation Manager will meet with the student to validate the information collected. A copy of the report will be forwarded to APO (Assistant Principal of Operations); school's Academic Counselor and the Regional Transportation Manager to administer the appropriate discipline and to inform parents/guardians about the situation. **The discipline will include five (5) to ten (10) days suspension or even permanent removal from the bus. Below are the most common Level III incidents:**

- Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, inappropriate gestures or possession of inappropriate materials
- Lighting matches, lighters, or any other flammable object or substance
- Possession or threats of possession of a weapon, explosive, or flammables
- Possession or use of tobacco or any controlled substance
- Bullying, threatening, or harassment of any person on the bus
- Knowingly and without permission riding an unassigned bus or using an unassigned bus stop
- Possession or use of a laser pen or pointer
- Parent, guardian or adult boarding the bus (This is a Class C Misdemeanor under Texas Law and punishable by up to a \$500 fine)
- Parent, guardian or adult responsible for dropping the student off at the bus stop and using their vehicle to block or stop the bus so that the student may board the bus. (This is a Class C Misdemeanor under Texas Law and punishable by up to a \$500 fine)
- Other offenses and behaviors which seriously jeopardize the safety of the bus driver, other students, the motoring public, or pedestrians