Chico ISD Transportation Policy

As part of our aim to provide ample opportunity for an education, the Texas State Board of Education and the district fund transportation for all students who live two miles or more from the school that they are assigned to attend. To accomplish this, we require the cooperation of all students and parents.

School bus drivers and their responsibilities

Chico school bus drivers are highly trained professionals who have obtained a Federal Commercial Drivers License with air brake, passenger and school bus endorsements. They are required to attend a 20-hr school bus driver safety-training course approved by the Texas Department of Public Safety as well as pass a physical examination, which is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Additional Chico ISD training is required in Safety/Student Management/CISD procedures.

"We strive to be the best because our children deserve to be safe."

Chico ISD's bus drivers work directly for the school district. They must be trained in Chico policy/procedures and come directly under district control and supervision while transporting Chico students. They are responsible for safely driving the school bus, transporting the students and staying on time. In order to aide the drivers with that responsibility, they are given control over daily operations. This may include the following: assigning seats, requiring silence on the bus, conferences with students, instruction in emergency procedures, etc.

Parents' responsibilities

Register your child for Transportation. To register your child, contact the office secretary of the campus your child attends or the director of transportation. Your student must be registered to be eligible for Bus Service. Students that are not registered may be denied transportation services. If you move, you must provide the campus with a new proof of residency as Transportation is based upon the address entered during registration at the home campus and does not change until it is updated thus bussing would continue to be provided to the original address. ***"Berkley's Rule"*** *prevents students from being assigned more than* ***one*** *bus and assures students maintain only* ***one*** *pickup/drop address.*

In order to maintain the routing/bus schedule, drivers cannot wait (unless they are early) at bus stops and may not have sufficient time to return if your child missed the bus. Children must be at their stops five (5) minutes before scheduled pick up time. Instruct your children on procedures to follow if they miss the bus.

Take the time to go over all the bus safety rules and consequences listed below with your child. Make sure they understand the need for following the safety rules on the bus and the necessity for respecting others as well as themselves.

If your student should lose their bus privileges, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to transport to and from school.

To insure the safety and security of all students on Chico ISD buses, parents may not board the bus at any time. Should you need to discuss an issue with the bus driver, please contact our office at 940-644-2228. The driver has been instructed not to engage in discussions with parents on route to avoid route delays.

Students' responsibilities

Students need to take the time to go over all the bus safety rules and consequences and make sure you understand the need for following the safety rules on the bus and the necessity for respecting other students as well as yourself. Remember that the driver is the authority on your bus.

Mornings

- Be at your bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Wait next to, but not in the street, driveway or parking lot.
- When the bus approaches, form a line and be prepared to load immediately.
- Stand clear of the bus until it comes to a complete stop.
- Use the handrail and steps.
- Go directly to your seat and sit down.
- The bus will not move until you are properly seated.
- If you miss the bus, go home immediately.

Afternoons

- Go directly to your bus in the bus lane-the bus will wait 5 minutes after arrival.
- Use the handrail and steps.
- Go directly to your seat and sit down.
- The bus will not move until you are properly seated.
- At your stop, stay seated until you hear the brake being set.
- Wait for your turn to leave the bus. Pushing and crowding will only slow exiting and may cause an accident
- All students living on the left side of the roadway shall exit the bus and move to a point 10-12 feet in front of the right corner of the bus and wait for the driver to signal you that it is safe to cross the street.
- Check in both directions and walk directly across the street.
- NEVER cross the street behind the bus.
- Be alert for cars that do not stop when the bus is loading or unloading students.

In case of an accident or an emergency

- FOLLOW THE DRIVER'S DIRECTIONS COMPLETELY AND WITHOUT HESITATION

Chico ISD School Bus Safety Rules and Consequences

THE SCHOOL BUS IS AN EXTENSION OF THE SCHOOL DAY. ALL RULES AND GUIDELINES IN THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT APPLY ON THE SCHOOL BUS.

RULES DEFINING STUDENT CONDUCT ARE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE PASSENGERS AND SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. The bus driver is in charge of students on the bus and his/her directions regarding bus safety and operations must be followed at all times.
2. Only authorized personnel and registered eligible bus students are permitted to ride the bus they are SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO; ***"Berkley's Rule"*** Students may have only one bus assignment designated by the address given at registration and may only load and unload at the stop designated by Transportation. Buses will stop at designated stops only. Those stops are assigned by the Transportation Department based on the student's recorded home address. Students are to arrive at their bus stop (5) five minutes before their pick-up time. Students will wait next to (but not in) the street, driveway or parking lot. Students must be respectful to property surrounding the stop. Students must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching to board or standing to leave the bus. Consistent tardiness to the bus stop will be handled as a normal rule violation.
3. Emergency transportation may be granted on a temporary basis by the Director of Transportation. **Notes from parents/guardian will not be accepted as authorization to ride a bus unless, the note has been verified by the campus principal prior to boarding the bus.**
4. Students will remain properly seated (facing forward keeping feet on the floor in front of them with their backs completely on the vinyl and NOT ON THE WINDOW) at all times. ALL elementary Chico ISD students receives assigned seats. The bus driver reserves the right to assign ANY OR ALL secondary Chico ISD students to assigned seats.
5. ALL Chico ISD buses are NO TOUCH BUSES. Any verbal or physical behavior that constitutes Sexual Harassment and/or Bullying is prohibited on the bus and at designated bus stops. Students must keep all body parts, bodily fluid and personal objects from contacting another student unnecessarily.
6. Students are allowed to drink **WATER ONLY.** There will be no consuming of food or gum.
7. Littering or throwing items inside or from the bus is prohibited. Students must keep their hands, head, feet, and personal objects inside the bus at all times.
8. Students may not engage in loud talking, yelling, abusive or inappropriate language or display obscene gestures. The bus driver may require **any or all** students to be **silent on the bus.**
9. Students shall not vandalize the bus. Students who violate this rule will be required to pay for damages and lose their bus privileges for a period of time to be determined.
10. Students are not allowed to bring animals, insects, inflated balloons, or harmful objects on the bus (i.e., weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, laser lights, glass containers, etc.).
11. Students may use cell phones for any operation **EXCEPT Camera or Video Use (No picture taking, video recording, face time, or Skype of themselves, others, or surroundings for any reason)**
12. Band instruments or class projects are allowed on Chico ISD buses provided they can be held by the student (not taller than shoulder or seat back), fit in the seat with the student, do not interfere with the availability of seating for other students, and do not interfere with the safety of students or bus operation. In the event that any of these conditions exist, parents will be notified by Transportation that they must provide an alternate means of transporting their child's instrument and/or project to and from school.
13. Students are not to engage in any other conduct that disrupts the safe operation of the bus. **All Chico ISD campus and Transportation policies and rules are enforceable within any Chico ISD bus stop or campus.**
14. Students **ARE required to wear a seat belt** while riding a bus if that bus is equipped with seat belts**.**

Consequences

The bus driver will report misconduct to the Principal and/or Director of Transportation.

Video and audio surveillance may be in operation on your child's bus to help in maintaining a safe and orderly bus. Federal law prohibits the school district from releasing the video to any member of the public except law enforcement officials (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

If necessary, inappropriate behavior will be investigated through the use of student interviews and video review - parents will be notified of the results. Students who violate bus safety rules will receive the following consequences:

Verbal/Written warning

Three-day bus suspension

Indefinite bus suspension for the remainder of the academic year

EXCEPTION: IF A STUDENT'S CONDUCT SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZES THE SAFETY OF THE OTHER STUDENTS AND/OR THE DRIVER OR ENGAGES IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, A SUSPENSION WILL BE IMMEDIATELY PLACED INTO EFFECT.
Education Code 37.126. Disruption of Transportation: Except as provided by Section 37.125, a person commits an offense if the person intentionally disrupts, prevents or interferes with the lawful transportation of children to or from school or an activity sponsored by a school on a vehicle owned or operated by a county or independent school district. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Any child suspended from bus services is **NOT ALLOWED** to board **ANY CHICO ISD Bus** for any reason. A suspension from the bus will be served during regular school days. This does not include days that school is not in session (Holidays, In-service days, or days that school has been cancelled).