

**BELOW IS A CONDENSED VERSION OF THE BORGER ISD BUS RIDER POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND CONSEQUENCES FOR BEHAVIOR. A FULL COPY OF THE BUS RIDERS' HANDBOOK CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).**

**Bus Rider Conduct Policy**

The bus ride is an extension of the school day. School regulations and expectations on the bus will be the same as when the student is on school premises. Our bus drivers are instructed not to let students ride to any destination other than their own residence or pre-approved bus stop. This is to keep buses from being overcrowded and to also help parents and the schools know where the child is at all times. All students must ride the bus assigned to them. If a parent desires an exception to this rule for any reason, written permission must be obtained from the campus principal before a student is allowed to ride a different route or get on/off at a different bus stop. The request must be dated and must include a statement of purpose, address of destination and will be subject to room on the bus and the student's appropriate behavior. A campus administrator must sign the written request. The student will take a copy of the written request or note from the office to give to the bus driver of their current route or alternate route. The requesting student must be currently receiving bus privileges to ride on another bus. If the student is not a current bus rider, they must get approval from the campus administrator and transportation department due to seating capacity. Long-term changes, over 10 days, the Transportation Department must be contacted for approval. Students are expected to follow the regulations below when riding the school bus. Failure to do so may result in the suspension of bus privileges. In addition, school discipline may be applied based on investigation information.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Students being transported are under the authority of the bus driver.
2. Students may be assigned seats by the bus driver.
3. Fighting, wrestling, or boisterous activity is prohibited on the bus.
4. Students shall use the emergency door only in case of emergency.
5. Students shall be at their morning stops 5 to 10 minutes early.
6. Students shall not bring firearms, weapons, or other potentially hazardous material on the bus.
7. Students shall remain seated while the bus is in operation. This includes while stopped during route.
8. When necessary to cross the road, students shall cross in front of the bus and as instructed by the bus driver.
9. Students shall not extend their hands, arms, heads, or any other objects out of the bus windows.
10. Students shall have written permission to exit the bus at a location other than at home or

at school. (See instructions above.)

11. Students shall converse in normal tones; loud or vulgar language is prohibited.
12. Students shall keep the bus clean and must refrain from damaging it.
13. Students shall be courteous to the driver, to fellow students, and passersby.
14. Students who refuse to promptly obey the directions of the driver or refuse to obey the regulations may forfeit their privilege to ride on the buses.
15. Students cannot bring glass, animals, balloons, or unsecured skateboards on the bus or other inappropriate items as determined by the bus driver. No food or drink may be consumed on the bus unless approved by the bus driver.
16. Personal electronic devices (cell phones, electronic games, video players, computers, etc.) are allowed on the bus, but students must wear headphones or earbuds and cannot be disruptive or cause a safety concern on the bus. No inappropriate, offensive, or vulgar material will be allowed on personal electronic devices. Taking pictures and/or video is not permitted. If this rule is not followed, the driver may confiscate the phone and give to the principal where the student may pick it up the next day.

#### **REMOVAL FROM THE SCHOOL BUS**

A bus driver may refer a student to the principal's office or student management specialist to maintain effective discipline on the bus. The principal must employ additional discipline management techniques, as appropriate, which can include restricting or revoking a student's bus riding privileges.

Since the district's primary responsibility in transporting students in district vehicles is to do so as safely as possible, the operator of the vehicle must focus on driving and not have his or her attention distracted by student misbehavior.

Therefore, when appropriate disciplinary management techniques fail to improve student behavior or when specific misconduct warrants immediate removal, the principal may restrict or revoke a student's transportation privileges, in accordance with law.

### **BISD Transportation Policy**

We hope it will not be necessary to forbid any student to ride a bus. Such action will be taken only as it contributes to the accomplishment of the goals of the district as spelled out in the Board of Education Policy. Students are forbidden to ride the bus when their behavior threatens the safety of themselves or others. When riding the bus is the only way a student can get to and from school, other disciplinary consequences may be given at the school campus.

The Bus driver is responsible for the safe operation of the bus. Students must abide by the

instructions of the driver to ensure a safe transportation system. If students refuse to abide by the instruction of the driver, the following action may be taken by the campus principal.

The consequences for elementary students' K-4 offenses will be applied within the semester. The consequences for 5-12 students' offenses will be applied within the current school year. Student discipline on the bus shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Video surveillance systems are used on all buses.**

**FIRST OFFENSE:**

A verbal warning or bus safety report will be issued at the discretion of the driver. The bus driver may explain the bus safety rules to the student and the need to abide by these rules to ensure the safety of all students. If a bus safety report is issued, the principal will oversee the bus safety report at their discretion. The student may be subject to punishment and parent/guardian will be contacted by phone. The phone call will inform the parent that if a second offense is committed, the student will be excluded from riding the bus for a period of two school days.

**SECOND OFFENSE:**

The principal will oversee the bus safety report at their discretion. The student may be subject to punishment and parent/guardian will be contacted by phone. The student may be excluded from the bus for two to three school days.

**THIRD OFFENSE:**

The principal will oversee the bus safety report at their discretion. The student may be subject to punishment and parent/guardian will be contacted by phone. The student may be excluded from the bus for a period of ten school days.

**FOURTH OFFENSE:**

The principal will oversee the bus safety report at their discretion. The student may be subject to punishment and parent/guardian will be contacted by phone. The student may be excluded from the bus for a period of thirty school days.

**FIFTH (AND BEYOND) OFFENSE:**

The principal will oversee the bus safety report at their discretion. The student may be subject to punishment and parent/guardian will be contacted by phone. The student may be excluded from the bus for a period of a semester or the rest of the school year.

**SEVERE INCIDENT:**

Destruction of property, fighting, or other major infractions will result in a bus safety report sent to the principal. The principal will then address the issue accordingly.

**RE-ADMITTANCE PROCEDURE:**

Prior to the student being re-admitted to the bus after committing the fifth or more offense, the parent must contact the student's principal and give assurance that the student's behavior will conform to rules and regulations. Any student, even though he has not committed his first offense, who willfully creates a disturbance or deliberately disobeys the bus driver may be

refused transportation by the student's principal. Any student who enters the bus after being excluded by the principal for willful misbehavior will be excluded from riding the bus for an additional period of thirty days.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Borger Independent School District will use one the following means to notify parents of school closures or delays due to inclement weather. Be sure to check these sites for information regarding school closures or delayed school starts.

Borger ISD website: [www.borgerisd.net](http://www.borgerisd.net)  
Borger ISD TWITTER  
Borger ISD FACEBOOK  
Borger ISD App "SchoolMessenger"  
KQTY 1600 AM and 106 FM radio,  
Amarillo TV Stations Channels 4, 7, and 10

We ask that you contact your child's school and then the Transportation Department, if you move during the school year or have moved in the last year to ensure the school district has the correct address and contact information on file. This allows your child uninterrupted transportation service and keeps the District's records accurate.

Nationwide, numerous students have been severely injured or killed when a drawstring on their clothing or backpack has gotten caught in playground equipment, fences, and school bus handrails and doors. All Borger Independent School District buses have been checked to prevent drawstrings from getting caught in the handrail or door.

For added safety, we ask you to please check your child's coats, jackets, backpacks, or other articles that have drawstrings that could get caught in the handrail or door of the bus. If the draw strings are extremely long, please remove, shorten, or replace them with some other type of fastener. Thank you for helping us make your children safer!