

August 2020

Hello Parents/Patrons:

Beginning Tuesday, September 08, 2020 Cypress Fairbanks I.S.D. bus transportation may be provided for eligible students attending their home campus as established by the district's 2020-2021 attendance boundaries.

Eligible Students may receive transportation to one eligible pick up address and one eligible take home address within their attendance boundary at the following eligible locations:

1. The student's primary residence.
2. A state recognized child care provider (including state recognized in-home care providers).
3. A grandparent responsible for providing before and after school care for the student.

Transportation is not provided for transfer students to/from the student's primary residence. Transfer students may be transported to/from a state recognized childcare provider, parent, or grandparent responsible for providing before and after school care if there is a district-approved stop on a district-approved route serving the transfer campus.

Specifically this school year, the Transportation Department is accepting applications for bus riders for the 2020/2021 school year.

Additional safety measures have been implemented to allow a decreased number of student riders and all school buses will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before and after each run.

Students who ride a Regular Ed bus may sign up on-line or at their campus.

Students with an IEP requiring Special Needs Transportation may sign-up with their campus diagnostician.

Generally, bus transportation may start within 5 days although not guaranteed.

After your request is received and your student is routed, you will be notified of your student's bus information through the district's home access center.

Until your students is added to a bus route, you are responsible for your student's travel to/from school.

Here are some of the safety precautions you'll need to be aware of before signing up to ride the bus:

- For safety reasons, district bus service on a regular basis to and/or from different locations on different days is not allowed.
- Students are only allowed to ride their assigned bus to/from their designated bus stop. Any change in that assignment can only be made on an emergency basis if a request is submitted by the parent in writing and it is approved by school personnel or designee. Requests for transportation to after-school activities, such as sports and scouts, cannot be approved.
- Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students are to be escorted from the school bus by a parent, guardian, or older sibling. If no one is available to escort the student, the student will be returned to his/her campus.

- Bus stops for riders meeting safety and efficiency standards are established by Transportation professionals for each grade level. Stops are generally located at corners for elementary students and may be at common centralized locations such as parks or community centers for middle and high school students.
- To assist secondary student families, Middle and High School Activity Late Run bus service is offered to eligible students for eligible after school activities. These stops are not like regular bus stops but are established at central locations in an effort to deliver students closer to home than the campus. Signing up with transportation to ride the activity late run bus is not required, but notifying your campus your student will ride the late bus is suggested as space is limited.
- Buses are scheduled to arrive at campuses 20 minutes prior to school bell time. It is recommended students begin riding the bus the first day of school so that student bus assignments, student ridership, and seating assignments may be identified and solidified as quickly as possible. For safety reasons, students and parents should arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time but not sooner. Students who are waiting at bus stops shall not loiter, trespass, litter, or create nuisance conditions for residents of the community.
- In order to promote a safe and pleasant ride for students, video cameras may be utilized. All students are expected to adhere to the Bus Safety Rules when being transported by buses or vehicles owned, operated or controlled by the district.
- Please advise your student he/she must properly wear seatbelts while being transported in any seat belt equipped vehicle that is owned, leased or utilized by the district.
- All CFISD students will receive an identification card. ID's will be required each time the student enters and exits their assigned bus. It is the student's responsibility to have their ID card in their possession and report any malfunction to their campus staff as soon as possible. By accessing the parent portal, parents may know instantly where and when your child enters and exits the bus as well as the bus location.
- Please visit www.cfishd.net, **PARENTS & STUDENTS – TRANSPORTATION – Transportation Information** to sign your student up for transportation and sign up for the Student ID program (Zonar) 'parent portal', free to all CFISD parents. Please take time to review Bus Rules, Student Safety, and Parent responsibilities,

We ask that you reinforce these communicated safety standards with your student/s to make your student's ride to/from school safe and expeditious.

Parents, guardians and persons acting in *loco parentis* should:

- A. Understand and support district guidelines and policies, and regulations and principles of school bus safety.
- B. Assist students in understanding safety rules and encourage them to abide by them.
- C. Recognize their own responsibilities for the actions of their children.

Understanding this, parents or guardians shall be responsible and accountable for the conduct and safety of their children at all times prior to the arrival and after the departure of the school bus at the assigned school bus stop.

- For the first few weeks of school, several factors contribute to some delays (traffic adjusting to the buses, student seat assignments, possible overcrowding, route direction adjustments, and delays at our campuses while staff ensures every student is loaded onto the correct bus for their take home route. Realizing this can be frustrating, please understand this is a 'transition time' for students, district staff, and patrons, therefore we appreciate each parent's patience in advance.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding transportation services, contact information is available at www.cfisd.net, **TRANSPORTATION – Transportation Contact Information.**

We are looking forward to the responsibility of transporting your student/s and wish them a fun and successful 2020/2021 school year!

Regards,

Cypress Fairbanks I.S.D. Transportation Staff