

## **Route Parameters and Guidelines**

Hudson Independent School District provides bus transportation to and from school as a courtesy service for eligible students residing in the district. The State of Texas prescribes the conditions governing school bus operations in Texas Education Code (TEC) Section 42.155(d)

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/docs/ED/content/htm/ed.002.00.000034.00.htm>.

HISD has a bus fleet of 30 buses, which are powered by diesel. Approximately 1,200 students are transported by bus each day and they travel approximately 200,000+ miles a year.

## **Transportation Service Guidelines**

### Eligibility

- Transportation is available for all children who live in the district except for those areas deemed exempt by the Board of Trustees.
- Some students who attend more than one school to participate in classes not offered at their school are transported between schools during school hours.
- Pick Up Time Criteria
  - Regular buses attempt to arrive at every bus stop on time. Due to the variances between individual clocks, and varying road traffic, students are asked to arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time. Buses will load students and depart the stop. Regular buses do not wait for late students. Students are expected to proceed immediately to the buses. Bus drivers are instructed not to stop or open the door for late or running students due to safety concerns.

### Daily Service Criteria

Regular buses are scheduled to provide service to student riders. Bus stops may be suspended or omitted for lack of ridership. Infrequent riders should contact the Transportation Department (875-9402) stating their wish to ride when service is needed. Routes are designed and redesigned as the appropriate needs arise.

### Bus Route Criteria and Route Design

Bus routes are created to enhance student safety while maximizing vehicle efficiency. When possible stops are created that allow students to wait off the main roadway for the bus. Stops are also created to minimize students walking on highly traveled roadways for long distances without sidewalks. Stops are generally not placed on dead end streets so as to minimize bus accidents while backing up the bus.

Stops are spread as far apart as criteria will allow in order to decrease the number of stops each bus will make on its route thus minimizing the overall riding time for the students.

In general, elementary students may be required to walk up to 1/4 of a mile to a bus stop and secondary students may be required to walk up to 1/2 of a mile. However, due to conditions beyond the control of the district, these distances may vary. Bus routes are designed to limit student ride time. Students are expected to follow the guidelines in the Student Code of Conduct while riding in any district owned vehicle.

### Video Cameras on Buses

Hudson ISD maintains video cameras on buses to enhance student safety. The videos assist drivers, station supervisors, and school administrators in monitoring student bus activity. Awareness of this program provides students with an incentive to exhibit positive behavior on the bus therefore resulting in a much safer bus environment.