

PARENT/STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDE

Mescalero Apache Schools



Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

Mescalero Apache Schools provides bus transportation to all students. Students are expected to assist MAS staff and bus drivers in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in the school buses or MAS vehicles, students are held to behavioral standards established herein.

Parents- Please read this brochure and discuss the bus rules with your student(s). It would also be a good idea to discuss:

- How to walk safely to and from the bus stop.
- Where to go for help on the way to and from the bus stop.
- How to behave safely at the bus stop.

Kindergarten students WILL NOT be released from the bus unless a parent/guardian is waiting or other arrangements have been made with the bus driver. Kindergarten students will be brought back to school and all phone numbers will be called on contact sheet. If no one can be reached, BIA police and Social Services will be called.

Students- Please remember that the safest way to ride a bus is to sit properly, facing forward with your feet on the floor. Also, remember that your driver must concentrate on traffic and driving the bus safely. Please cooperate by following the rules listed in this brochure. Talking in a normal tone of voice is acceptable and the best form of communication on the bus.

Student Responsibilities

Arriving at pickup point:

- Be on time.
- If you have to walk along the road, walk on the left side facing oncoming traffic.
- Walk on the shoulder of the road.
- If other students are waiting at the bus stop, get in line without pushing or crowding and stay off the roadway.

Board/Exit the bus:

- Line up single file parallel to the roadway, with the younger students in front so they can board the bus first.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to get on board.
- Board the bus quickly but without crowding or pushing.
- Always walk on the bus.
- Go directly to your seat and sit straight, with back against the seat and face the front of the bus.
- Do not push or crowd when leaving the bus.

Conduct on the bus:

- The bus will not move until all passengers are seated.
- Remain seated throughout the trip and leave your seat only when the bus has reached its destination and comes to a complete stop.
- Keep your books and/or other items on your lap or put them under the seat.
- Keep the aisle clear

- Bus driver should only be alerted if there is an emergency.
- Avoid doing anything that might disturb or interfere with the bus driver. Refrain from loud or boisterous talking or yelling.
- Never stick hands, arms, head or feet out of the windows of the bus.
- Windows may be opened only with the bus driver's permission.
- Do not throw anything in the bus or out of the window.
- The emergency door, exit controls or any of the bus safety equipment is only used in emergency situations.
- Keep the bus clean for your use.
- Eat at home or school, but not on the bus. (Safety issues: choking hazard)
- Consumption of food or drinks are prohibited on the bus.
- Promptly follow the bus driver's directions at all times.

Prohibited items:

- Tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs are not allowed in the school bus.
- Insects, reptiles, or other animals shall not be transported in the school bus.
- Weapons, explosive devices, or chemicals shall not be transported in the school bus.

School Bus Disciplinary Plan

When a principal/designee receives a school bus incident report, the administrator may use the following disciplinary plan.

1st Offense: A warning to the student with a report to the parent/guardian will be issued. It is expected that the parent/guardian will work with the student to help prevent a recurrence.

2nd Offense: A report to the parent/guardian will be made notifying that the student's bus riding privileges have been revoked for 1-2 days.

3rd Offense: A report to the parent/guardian will be made notifying that the student's bus riding privileges have been revoked for one week and a parent/principal/bus driver conference must occur.

4th Offense: Bus riding privileges will be revoked for 9 weeks.

5th Offense: Bus riding privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the school year.

Severe disruption and dangerous behavior will result in immediate suspension or revocation of transportation privileges.

Parents will be required to transport students to school during any suspension of transportation privileges. Students will not receive an excused absence due to loss of transportation privileges.

Inclement Weather Schedule



The most common use of the abbreviated day schedule occurs when severe weather causes dangerous driving conditions which would endanger the safety of students getting to school. The abbreviated day schedule is a shortened school day which begins at 10 a.m. and ends at the regular time. Morning pickup times will be **two hours later**.

If there is a need to initiate an abbreviated schedule, an announcement will be made through Facebook and the automated call no later than 6 a.m. If weather conditions worsen, to the point that it is necessary to close the school, an announcement will be made no later than 8 a.m.

Please complete and sign this page and return to the office, which acknowledges that you have read this transportation guide. The signature must be turned into your child’s teacher to avoid loss of transportation privileges.

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2025-2026 Transportation Guide Acknowledgement

Student’s Regular Bus Route

Pick-Up Location _____ Bus # _____

Drop-Off Location _____ Bus # _____

I acknowledge that my child and I have read the Parent/Student Transportation Guide regarding the MAS bus policies.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Print Student Name	Student Signature	Grade	Date

_____	_____	_____
Print Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date

Please sign and return to your child’s teacher to avoid loss of transportation privileges.