



SDFAS Transportation Information & Policies 2026-2027

School bus cell phone:

•The school bus driver has a cell phone to be used by call or text only for emergencies or urgent situations. The numbers are:

**858-214-0481 (mornings) or 858-405-9378 (afternoons) for the Northbound route
858-333-0830 for the Southbound route**

•The bus driver is not permitted to make calls or text while driving the bus though he or she can do so at one of the bus stops.

Reporting behavior issues:

Inappropriate language or behavior should be reported verbally to the bus monitor or bus driver, or by email to the Director of Facilities & Operations (any of whom will involve the Division Director as needed): facilities@sdfas.org

Parent communication to the school about day-of or last minute changes

Any changes to those authorized to pick-up or drop-off students at bus stops must be communicated in writing (email is fine) to the Director of Facilities & Operations: facilities@sdfas.org, with a CC to the Front Desk Associate (frontdesk@sdfas.org) and the Pre-Elementary Administrative Director, Babeth Esterly (besterly@sdfas.org).

Parent punctuality

Parents are expected to consistently arrive at the bus stop for pick-up or drop-off **in advance** of the pick-up or drop-off time. (Failure to do so can lead to face-to-face meetings to discuss the nature of the problem and eventually, if recurrent, to temporary or permanent suspension of bus privileges). On any given day, if a single family is late, this has serious time-related consequences for everyone else who uses the bus program.

Procedure if student has no authorized adult to receive him or her at the bus stop upon drop-off:

If a parent or **authorized pick-up adult** is NOT present at the designated bus stop, the bus driver is not permitted to release the student to anyone, including to another SDFAS family, unless prior authorization in writing (email is fine) has been received by the Director of Facilities & Operations with a CC to the Pre-Elementary Administrative Director, Babeth Esterly, and the Front Desk Associate. In such cases where no authorized adult is there, the student will remain on the bus, and can be picked up at the next bus stop (with written authorization by email) or else will return to SDFAS on the bus and will need to be picked up at school by 5:30 pm at latest with Extended Care charged in 30-minute increments.

Changes in bus personnel

Any changes in bus personnel, to the degree possible and depending on the context of the change, will be

communicated as far in advance as is possible to families. SDFAS bus and drivers **always** meet **all** CHP and DMV safety standards and have undergone AliveScan FBI database background checks via digital fingerprinting. New drivers will be accompanied for at least three days on the route (by a back-up driver, Director of Campus Operations or other qualified school official) to get to know students and families and gain route familiarity.

School Bus Disciplinary Policy

In the name of a safe, secure and sanitary environment for all students on the bus, proper behavior is expected at all times, which means following all of the bus rules and regulations outlined in the complete SDFAS Transportation Regulations document.

For the purposes of our disciplinary policy, it is important that SDFAS highlights that the following behaviors will not be tolerated:

Minor:

- Turning around in one's seat / sitting in one's seat facing the back of the bus
- Sitting with legs or feet in the bus aisle
- Opening bus windows without express permission from the bus driver or except in case of an emergency
- Gum chewing
- Eating without express permission of the bus monitor or bus driver (drinking water is allowed)

Major:

- Disobeying or disrespecting a bus monitor or the bus driver at any time
- Unbuckling one's seatbelt while the bus is in motion
- Use of profane language
- Bullying, harassment, intimidation or threats toward another student or students
- Rude or lude behavior toward others on the bus or to passersby
- Opening rear emergency door without express permission of the bus driver or bus monitor, or except in the event of an emergency situation
- Putting or dangling hands, arms or any other body part outside of a bus window, or throwing anything on the bus or out of the window of the bus

Tracking behavior / consequences:

The bus monitor and/or bus driver will monitor student behavior at all times and track instances of breach of the bus disciplinary policy. Accumulated infractions, depending on their seriousness, will lead to consequences such as:

Serious reminders; verbal warnings; involvement of the Division Director(s) and/or the Director of Campus Operations; phone calls/emails home with official warnings and documentation of infractions; face-to-face meetings at the school with parents (with, at times, the student present) to stress the seriousness of the matter and discuss next steps; detention with learning and reflection activity surrounding the inappropriate behavior(s); temporary suspension of bus privileges; permanent suspension of bus privileges; a formal investigation with consequences if justified based on accusations or alleged behavior (in cases of alleged bullying, harassment or intimidation all procedures follow the student-parent handbook); any other consequence that the school may deem appropriate.