



To: Parents and Guardians of Students in the Tulare Joint Union High School District

Subject: **Transportation: Riding the School Bus**

School Year: 2024-2025

The Tulare Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees seeks to provide as much opportunity as is economically feasible for students who reside a long distance from campus to attend school and participate in school activities. Consequently, the district operates an extensive transportation system to transport students to and from school and to many activities away from our campuses.

Some of the school bus routes for this school year have been revised and are subject to change. We will once again enforce the two-mile walk radius. For more information on our bus stops, times and maps please visit our website at www.tulare.k12.ca.us or give us a call at 559-688-2021 ext. 2023 or 2009. Students will not be allowed to ride a different bus route or get off at an unauthorized stop without a prior parental/guardian permission slip approved by the school attendance office.

Who can ride the bus?

The Tulare Joint Union High School District provides bus service for:

- Students who live more than two miles walking distance from school.
- Students in certain special education programs.

What about students who go to schools outside their attendance area?

Transportation is provided only if they are enrolled in a special education program not offered at their local school. Other students who receive permission to attend a school outside their attendance area must provide their own transportation to and from school.

What are some of the rules of conduct on buses?

- Students must be at the bus stop at the time designated and be ready to board with the least possible delay.
- Students should look for traffic in both directions before crossing the street and should cross at crosswalk areas where possible.
- Students must not stand or play in the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Students should remain in line at least twelve feet from the bus when it stops to pick up passengers and should not move toward the bus until the door is open.
- No animals, alcoholic beverages, tobacco and nicotine products, firearms, drugs or explosives are allowed on the bus.
- School dress code will be strictly enforced.
- Students must conduct themselves in an acceptable manner at all times. Vulgarity or other inappropriate behavior will not be permitted.
- Students shall not block the aisle or emergency exits with musical instruments, books, or other possessions.
- Students shall not extend arms or heads out of the bus windows at any time
- Students shall not spit, throw, or drop anything out of the bus at any time.
- Seat belt use is mandatory when buses are equipped.

What can I do when the bus does not show up on time?

If you are reasonably sure that the delay is not due to weather conditions, please allow at least 15 minutes before calling the District Transportation Department Office. A bus may be delayed due to traffic conditions or mechanical problems. If, at the end of 15 minutes, your bus still has not arrived, you may wish to call the transportation office at 559-688-2021 ext. 2023 or 2009. Please call the Foggy Day Line at 559-656-5990 for foggy day information. The Transportation office reserves the right to change bus stop times or routes without notice when necessary to ensure student safety.

Who can ride a late bus?

Buses or vans will depart from Tulare Western at approximately 5:50 pm, Mission Oak at approximately 5:50 pm, and Tulare Union at approximately 5:50 pm. These buses or vans are for athletes who remain after school for practice, students attending after school programs or tutoring, or other after school related activities. Anyone else desiring to ride a late bus or van must have written permission from a site office administrator. A Late Run Pass is required to board the late bus or van.

Transportation Department Disciplinary Actions:

Minor Disciplinary Action Includes: NOT following directions given by driver, not wearing a seat belt properly, or continuously using profanity, vulgar or abusive language, verbal bullying and other minor infractions of the school bus rules. See transportation safety plan for Tulare Joint Union High School District.

Penalties for Violations:

1. First Violation will result in verbal warning with a call to parent or responsible adult
 2. Second Violation will result in 3-5 day suspension of bus riding privileges
 3. Third Violation will result in 5-10 day suspension of bus riding privileges
 4. Fourth Violation will result in suspension of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year
- a. Suspension of bus privileges includes: Sports and activity trips, crosstown and farm shuttles, late run and charter bus services.

Major Disciplinary Action

Includes the use of drugs or alcohol, damage to the school bus, graffiti, damage to seats, verbal or physical altercations with driver or other students, stealing, damage to property of another student, and bullying

Damage to Tulare Joint Union High School property may result in students being liable for cost of repairs.

Penalties for Violations

1. First Violation will result in 3-5 day suspension of bus privileges
2. Second Violation will result in 5-10 day suspension of bus privileges
3. Third Violation will result in suspension of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year
- a. Suspension of bus privileges includes: Sports and activity trips, crosstown and farm shuttles, late run and charter bus services.

Disciplinary actions will be based on how severe the violation. If the student does not have a violation for 6 months the penalties will be reset.

Major violations will not be tolerated and will not reset until the completion of the school year.

Any other questions about buses? Call the Transportation Department at 559-688-2021 extension 2023 or 2009.