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## ***ZPass Parent Information - Frequently Asked Questions***

### **Why is ZPass being considered for use at MISD Schools?**

Pease Academy and Carver Center have volunteered to participate in the rollout this ZPass Bus Safety Program for MISD. With the introduction of ZPass, we are pleased to announce Pease Academy, Carver Center and MISD Transportation will be able to promptly provide you with real time accurate information on when and where your child gets on or off a school bus. ZPass is an innovative student electronic ridership system which provides school staff with the time, date and location that a student enters and exits a school bus. The program software is widely used and trusted by school districts across the nation. Each school bus is equipped with a ZPass ID badge reader. As students enter and exit their bus, they simply tap or swipe their ZPass ID badge in front of the badge reader located at the bus entry door. The system then records the time, date and location of entry or exit. This data is transmitted to a secure database only assessable to school administrative staff and authorized transportation staff.

### **How will ZPass benefit a Parent?**

A parent may elect to automatically receive this same student ridership information for their children via text message, email or both. ZPass has a Parent Application which works on a variety of electronic platforms and is free to all parents who elect to participate. Once a parent signs up for this free service, a parent can receive text notifications whenever their child swipes their ID badge when boarding or departing a bus. These text notifications will include the time and location of pickup or drop-off. Parents can also log in from a desktop computer or tablet to receive these notifications.

### **Will the ZPass system follow my child while they ride a Bus?**

No. Although the ZPass system uses GPS to read when and where a child enters or exits a MISD bus, this system is unable to detect where children are located on their bus route or where your child goes after they exit a bus. The ZPass system cannot follow or track your child's personal ID badge in any active tracking or GPS follow mode.

### **As a Parent, can I opt out of the use of this system?**

As a district we feel this ZPass system offers many advantages to parents and the district to give real time ridership information and accurately identify students riding MISD buses. In the rare case of an emergency, the district wants to be able to quickly and efficiently contact parents of bus riders and provide further information and instructions. For the safety of your children and our students we are not allowing a parent to opt out of this system.

## **What if I do not want my child's personal information listed on a badge!**

During the roll-out of the ZPass system at a campus, each student will be assigned a ZPass ID badge for their daily use to tap or swipe on the bus badge reader. This ID badge will electronically contain only the student's ID number. Printed information on the ID badge will only show the student's first and last initials, student's ID number and the barcode for the student's ID number. No other personal student information will be electronically embedded onto this badge. In addition, the ZPass system and database is not electronically linked to the student's educational record and cannot provide any other student or parent information or student record data.

## **When will my Child be required to use their ZPass Badge?**

All transportation eligible students will be required to wear or display their ZPass ID badge when boarding, riding or departing a school bus. In the event a student loses their ID or it is damaged, they will receive an additional ZPass ID free of charge. If a student loses their ID, they will not be denied transportation; however they will need to obtain a replacement ID from the campus office in a timely manner. Daily bus students will be required to use their badge each time they enter or exit a bus. Students riding a bus occasionally, such as on field trips; will be issued their badge from their teacher to use during special travel events.

## **Is this ZPass ID system used by other school districts?**

ZPass is new to MISD, however this is not a new transportation safety system. This program has been utilized by a variety of school districts across the nation and most recently was rolled out in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD school system (Houston suburb). We understand the rollout of any new safety program within the district will create some growing pains and questions to resolve. MISD is excited to offer this ZPass safety program to the students at Pease Academy and Carver Center. The lessons learned from the rollout of the ZPass program at these two schools will be used by the district to implement this safety program at other MISD schools. Please feel free to visit the ZPass website [www.zpassplus.com](http://www.zpassplus.com) or the MISD Transportation website [www.midlandisd.net](http://www.midlandisd.net) to obtain more information concerning the ZPass bus safety program and the transportation system serving MISD.

## **When will Students begin using this system?**

Student ID's will be issued by the campus on or before Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> with student implementation to begin on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **If I have more questions concerning this system, whom can I contact?**

Please feel free to contact any of the following MISD administrators who will be willing to help answer any question or concern you may have concerning the ZPass system.

Gabriel Salgado  
Principal - Pease Academy  
(432) 240-7700

Jan Rhodes  
Principal - Carver Center  
(432) 240-6400

Willie Tarleton  
Director of Transportation  
(432) 240-1700

James W. Rikken  
Chief Operations Officer  
(432) 240-1007