



Communications

North East Independent School District

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NEISD launches SMART Tag system for bus riders

New communication system provides added layer of safety and security

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan 3, 2022 –Beginning Jan. 10, elementary school bus riders in the MacArthur High School cluster, will use a SMART Tag system. This includes Northwood, Oak Grove, Regency Place, Serna, Redland Oaks, Wetmore and Thousand Oak elementary schools. North East ISD is one of the first districts in San Antonio to use the communication system.

Bus riders on these routes will be issued a SMART Tag ID card. Every time students load or unload their school bus, they will scan their SMART ID Tag on a tablet equipped on each bus. This provides valuable real-time information for the bus driver, NEISD Transportation department, school administrators and parents.

The system will be rolled out to other NEISD elementary school students in the weeks to follow.

The system's benefits include several layers of efficiency and safety.

- Bus drivers will see student photos and names on their tablet when IDs are scanned that allow them to get to know their riders and ensure they are on the correct bus.
- Bus drivers can easily verify authorized guardians at pick-up locations for all pre-K and kindergarten students.
- Parents can access an online portal that will let them get text notifications including when the bus is nearby and when their students get on and off the bus.
- Transportation staff and school administrators can track real-time data on routes.
- Dispatchers can view maps with live GPS bus locations and ridership data.

The secure tag will not contain personal student information and cannot be used to monitor a rider's location when off of the bus.

[Click here to access a SMART Tag frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) page.](#)

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North East ISD has more than 70 schools and magnet programs with a fall 2021 enrollment of approximately 60,480 students. NEISD employs approximately 8,500 people. It is the second largest public school district in the San Antonio area and the 10th largest in the state.