

# Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

A center for educational services for all blind and visually impaired students in Texas

Emily Coleman, Superintendent  
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(512) 454-8631 Toll-free: (800) TSB-KARE  
[www.tsbvi.edu](http://www.tsbvi.edu)

June 30, 2023

Dear Parents,

This letter is regarding the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Weekends Home Program for the 2023-2024 school year. Please read this letter carefully so you understand the Weekends Home Program. Our goal has always been to ensure as many students go home each week as possible. Our school values the importance of our students maintaining the bond they hold with their families and local communities. Additionally, the home community is where resources should be developed to assist the student in their transition to a productive adult life. To achieve these goals, TSBVI established the Weekends Home Program, which works as detailed below.

**Payment for air transportation and bus/van transportation:** On School Closure Weekends, your local school district provides for your child to come home, at no expense to you. The TSBVI Weekends Home Program buses run on those weekends and your district will pay TSBVI for that service. Your local school district is also responsible to reimburse your mileage to and from the stops on these weekends. Please contact them to arrange payment. Please refer to the attached calendar for the specific dates of the school closings. On non-closure weekends, TSBVI pays for travel.

For each weekend, TSBVI will reimburse you for picking up your child and dropping them off at our bus stops. If your child goes home by commercial bus or TSBVI bus or plane, you will be paid to pick-up and take your child to the drop-off point.

**Mileage Reimbursement:** For each mile you drive back and forth from the drop-off point, TSBVI will reimburse you at the rate of 50% of the federal/state mileage reimbursement rate, currently that is \$.33 per mile. Please be aware that this amount is subject to change based on state and federal mileage reimbursement rates. If you live 15 miles from the drop-off point, TSBVI will pay you  $15 \times \$0.33$  or 4.95 for your trip to the drop off point on Friday afternoons; 4.95 for your trip back home on Friday evening; 4.95 to take your child back to the drop-off point Sunday morning and 4.95 for your drive home on Sunday. So, if you live 15 miles from the drop-off point, for one weekend, TSBVI will pay you \$19.80.

Reimbursement checks will be mailed two times per year. The first check will be mailed in December for qualifying miles you drive between the beginning of the school year and the Thanksgiving holiday. The second check will be mailed in July for the miles you drive between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. Please make certain you complete the Weekends Home Parent Agreement form sent in July and return it to the school in the attached envelope to set this process in motion.

**Safety:** each school vehicle used for the Weekends Home Program carries equipment to make the trips as safe as possible. All Weekends Home Staff have been trained to manage students effectively and to safely transport them. This includes training on sanitation, evacuations and other emergency response techniques. Every effort is made to ensure a safe ride and a positive experience for students.

Please always make certain you pick up your child on time and have your child back on time to your drop-off point. If your child travels by plane or commercial bus, you must arrive at the gate 60 minutes before the scheduled time for pick-up or drop off.

Thank you for your participation and attention to these details. We look forward to another great year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Coleman', followed by a long horizontal line.

Emily Coleman  
Superintendent  
Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

## **TSBVI Weekends Home Transportation**

### **Individualized Student Considerations**

TSBVI believes it is in each student's best interest to spend as much time with their families and in their home communities as possible. Each student at TSBVI travels to and from their home community each weekend. Given the size of our state, travel to and from TSBVI and the potential impact on students and families is an important consideration for all parties ---involved. Careful examination of the travel implications in relation to following factors should be provided before a Local School District refers a student to TSBVI:

- A student's tolerance for routine travel for extended periods of time
- The social/emotional impact of being away from familiar and preferred persons and relationships for extended periods
- The availability of travel based on specific geographical location
- The availability of a school district flight travel chaperone when needed around closure weekends.

### **TSBVI Weekends Home Travel Stops**

TSBVI Weekends Home buses travel on the following routes (these may change before the school year begins):

- Corpus Christi Route (stopping in San Antonio, George West and Corpus Christi)
- Dallas Route (stopping in Mesquite)
- Ft. Worth Route (stopping in Belton, Waco and Ft. Worth)
- Houston Route (stopping in Sealy and Houston)
- Jacksonville Route (stopping in Franklin and Jacksonville)

TSBVI Weekends Home flight chaperones accompany students to the following locations on all non-closure weekends:

- Amarillo
- El Paso
- Harlingen
- Midland/Odessa

### **TSBVI Responsibilities**

TSBVI will provide weekly transportation to designated drop off locations through TSBVI's Weekends Home program for all non-holiday closure weekends (TAC Rule 89.1090). Closure weekends are defined as travel days that occur when the school closes for holidays and/or staff development days. There are approximately 8 closure periods over the course of one school year as indicated on the TSBVI Weekends Home Travel Calendar.

Weekends Home drop-off locations include designated bus stops and airports throughout the state. The stops and airport locations may change from year to year based on student population and staffing capacity. TSBVI Weekends Home Transportation will provide travel chaperones on the buses and flights to support safe and successful student transportation. Students that meet the TSBVI Guidelines for Independent Flight Travel may fly on direct flights without a flight chaperone after an initial period of mandatory flight assistance for their 1st semester. Following the student's first semester, a decision must be agreed upon by the Parent or Guardian, the Local District and TSBVI.

## **Family and Local District Responsibilities**

Families are responsible for the transportation to and from the Weekends Home drop off locations. TSBVI will reimburse families for gas mileage related to these trips that occur on non-closure weekends, upon request, two times per year, in December and June. The mileage is calculated using the student's address of record and the address of the drop-off location (airport or bus stop). If a family is experiencing hardship in providing this regular and ongoing transportation, they are encouraged to request assistance from the Local School District. Failure to meet the regular and ongoing transportation needs may result in the need for the ARD committee to meet and problem-solve transportation problems that may impact the student's ongoing placement at TSBVI.

Families and/or Local Districts are responsible for bringing the students to TSBVI at the start of the school year and picking them up at the end of the school year. This allows families to bring student belongings to personalize their dorm room and also to meet members of the student's educational team in person. All student belongings must return home at the end of each school year.

The Local District is responsible for student travel that occurs around school closures as indicated on the TSBVI Weekends Home Travel Calendar (TAC Rule 89.1090). There are approximately 8 closure periods over the course of one school year. For bus riders, The Local District may choose to have their student ride the Weekends Home bus around closure dates. TSBVI will bill the Local District for this transportation at the end of each school year using the current state transportation rate for mileage reimbursement. For flyers, Local Districts are responsible for the purchase of the plane tickets and providing of a flight chaperone if applicable. For airline travel, a state ID is required for students 18 years of age and older. Families are responsible for obtaining a state issue ID prior to the student's 18th birthday. If the student does not have a state issued ID, they cannot fly. We recommend that students 16 years of age and older apply for a state identification card.

## **Travel Reimbursements**

TSBVI reimburses the parent for travel to and from the nearest bus stop or airport. Parent reimbursement checks are issued three times a year. TSBVI does not arrange transportation from the TSBVI drop off point to the student's home. That responsibility is worked out between the local school district and the family.

If you have questions about reimbursement, call TSBVI Weekends Home Coordinator, Gian Calaci at 512.206.9231.

## **Local Education Agency Responsibility for Student Travel**

The Local Education Agency (LEA) is responsible for making arrangements and for the cost of a student's travel to and from TSBVI. The LEA ensures that there is no cost to parents for this travel. (See Commissioner Rule 19 TAC 89.1090)

**The LEA is responsible for transportation on the first and last day of the school year or the first day of attendance if student begins later in the school year:**

- The parent or a LEA representative brings the student to TSBVI to complete the in-person registration process.
- The LEA provides plane tickets, bus tickets, or a LEA vehicle to transport the student, parent and/or LEA representative(s).
- If the parent chooses to provide their own transportation, the LEA reimburses the parent for mileage. Parents should contact a Local School District representative to arrange for this reimbursement.

## **Regularly scheduled TSBVI School Closures:**

- TSBVI Weekend Home Buses run before and after School Closures. If the student is eligible to use TSBVI Weekends Home buses, the LEA will reimburse TSBVI for this service on TSBVI closure weekends. TSBVI will charge the LEA for this bus travel at the end of each school year. End of year travel billing will be sent to LEAs within 10 calendar days from the last day of school.

- The local school district will support the family with closure transportation from the Weekends Home bus stop to the student's home. If the parent chooses to pick up the student from the Weekends Home stop, the LEA reimburses the parent for this cost.

If the student travels home by plane or public bus on a closure weekend, the LEA provides the plane or bus ticket. Ticket purchases need to be made at least a week prior to travel. The LEA provides a travel chaperone if needed and provides for all chaperone travel arrangements and costs. Students permitted to fly without a chaperone should be booked on direct flights whenever possible.

TSBVI Administrative Assistant, Ellen Grimmett is available to support district travel plans for Closure Weekends. 512.206.9171

If travel difficulties repeatedly impact a student's regular attendance, TSBVI will initiate a request for an ARD Committee discussion on the appropriateness of the student's continued placement at TSBVI.

## **Student Travel Chaperones for Public Transportation**

A student's need for a travel chaperone on public transportation must be made by the student's ARD committee and should be documented in the student's IEP.

TSBVI provides chaperones for public travel on all weekends except Closure Weekends. On Closure Weekends districts are responsible for providing tickets and chaperones.

All students utilizing public transportation must travel with a TSBVI identification badge that indicates TSBVI contact information. For airline travel, a state ID is required for students 18 years of age and older. We recommend that students 16 years of age and older apply for a state identification card.

Students permitted to travel without a chaperone must be able to deal with travel problems, such as: lost or stolen belongings, airline security issues, flight delays and cancellations, or personal safety issues. This requires a high degree of independent problem solving and advocacy skills.

Based on U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines for airline travel, a student requires a chaperone if any of the following situations apply:

- 1.The student is developmentally, cognitively, emotionally, or behaviorally unable to comprehend or respond appropriately to safety instructions before, during, or after travel. This includes instruction from Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees.
- 2.The student is severely impaired with respect to mobility and would be unable to assist in his or her own evacuation from the aircraft.
- 3.The student has sensory impairments that preclude the student from adequately communicating with airline employees regarding safety information.
- 4.The student needs extensive special assistance which airline personnel are not obligated to provide, for example, assistance in eating, assistance within the lavatory, or provision of medical services including emergency medical treatments.

## **Emergency or Health Related Travel**

Students may need to return home for unexpected reasons outside the usual travel times. TSBVI and the Local School District will collaborate to plan and make arrangements with families for emergency travel. All families are required to identify emergency travel plans in the event that their student needs to return home unexpectedly.

If it becomes necessary to transport a student to a hospital, the parent/guardian will communicate directly with the hospital or medical facility. Parents/guardians will need to make immediate arrangements to come to Austin to be with their student at the hospital or medical facility, attend to their care, communicate with healthcare providers, make medical decisions, and take their student home. TSBVI is unable to assume this responsibility. Once the student is discharged from the hospital, parents/guardians will schedule a follow-up examination with the student's appropriate medical provider (neurologist, endocrinologist, primary care provider, behavioral health, etc.) and obtain a release to return to school. A return to TSBVI will be addressed when additional follow-up information from the student's appropriate health care provider has been received. The TSBVI Health Center Director will review and identify if any additional information is needed prior to making arrangements for the student to return to TSBVI.

Parents/guardians will be asked to keep the student at home if the student is ill or seriously injured, or when home care and supervision is required due to a medical treatment plan. The length of time that the student will need to remain at home will be determined by either the student's health care provider or [Department of State Health Services School Communicable Disease Chart](#). This allows the family to carefully monitor the student and quickly follow up with the student's healthcare provider in the event of medical complications or undesired side effects from a new medication.

Students with serious, on-going, or potentially contagious illnesses will need to be picked up from TSBVI by the parent/guardian or designee. In these instances, students will not be permitted to ride the Weekends Home buses or planes.

Parents/guardians must ensure that TSBVI has a list of at least three reliable emergency contacts who can respond to TSBVI within 24 hours or sooner when emergency circumstances require parental consent for treatment or pick-up from TSBVI or a hospital. TSBVI requests that parents/guardians create a back-up plan that includes other alternates (family, friends, district) who can come to Austin to pick up the student in the event they are not able to do so. If problems occur with student pick up related to a medical issue, the student's educational team including the parents/guardian and the LEA, will need to meet to discuss eligibility.

TSBVI will provide mileage reimbursement upon request to parents/guardians traveling to pick up a student due to health reasons.

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

## Weekends Home Program - Travel Calendar 2023-24

Registration Day - August 13, 2023 - Family/District Drop off at TSBVI			
Week #	Closure?	Depart	return
1		Friday 8/18/23	Sunday 8/20/23
2		Friday 8/25/23	Sunday 8/27/23
3	Closure	Friday 9/1/23	Monday 9/4/23
4		Friday 9/8/23	Sunday 9/10/23
5		Friday 9/15/23	Sunday 9/17/23
6		Friday 9/22/23	Sunday 9/24/23
7		Friday 9/29/23	Sunday 10/1/23
8		Friday 10/6/24	Sunday 10/8/24
9	Closure	Thursday 10/12/23	Monday 10/16/23
10		Friday 10/20/23	Sunday 10/22/23
11		Friday 10/27/23	Sunday 10/29/23
12		Friday 11/3/23	Sunday 11/5/23
13		Friday 11/10/23	Sunday 11/12/23
14	Closure	Friday 11/17/23	Sunday 11/26/23
15		Friday 12/1/23	Sunday 12/3/23
16		Friday 12/8/23	Sunday 12/10/23
17		Friday 12/15/23	Sunday 12/17/23
18	Closure	Thursday 12/21/23	Monday 1/8/24
19	Closure	Friday 1/12/24	Monday 1/15/24
20		Friday 1/19/24	Sunday 1/21/24
21		Friday 1/26/24	Sunday 1/28/24
22		Friday 2/2/24	Sunday 2/4/24
23		Friday 2/9/24	Sunday 2/11/24
24	Closure	Thursday 2/15/24	Monday 2/19/24
25		Friday 2/23/24	Sunday 2/25/24
26		Friday 3/1/24	Sunday 3/3/24
27	Closure	Thursday 3/7/24	Sunday 3/17/24
28		Friday 3/22/24	Sunday 3/24/24
29	Closure	Thursday 3/28/24	Monday 4/1/24
30		Friday 4/5/24	Sunday 4/7/24
31		Friday 4/12/24	Sunday 4/14/24
32		Friday 4/19/24	Sunday 4/21/24
33		Friday 4/26/24	Sunday 4/28/24
34		Friday 5/3/24	Sunday 5/5/24
35		Friday 5/10/24	Sunday 5/12/24
36		Friday 5/17/24	Sunday 5/19/24
Last Day of School - May 23, 2024 - Family/District Pick-up at TSBVI			

2023

## Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

2024

Final

20C	August 2023						14I
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	
TSBVI Summer School ends July 7 AISD begins classes 14th							
30	<31	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17*	18*	19*	
20*	21	22	23	24*	25*	26*	
27*	28	29	30	31			
18C	November 2023						17I
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	
AISD student holiday 7th AISD student/staff holidays 20-24							
			1*	2*	3*	4	
5	<6	7	8	9*	10*	11*	
12*	13*	14*	15*	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30*			
16C	December 2023						15I
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
AISD holidays: Students 21-29, Staff 25-29							
3*	<4	5	6	7*	8*	9*	
10*	11	12	13	14*	15*	16*	
17*	18	19	20	21}	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							
22C	October 2023						20I
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
AISD student holiday 13th							
1	<2	3	4	5	6	7	
8*	9*	10*	11*	12}	13	14	
15	16	{17	18	19	20	21	
22*	23*	24*	25*	26	27	28	
29*	30*	31*					
17C	January 2024						16I
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
AISD holidays: Students 1-8, 15, Staff 1-5, 15							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8*	{9*	10*	11*	12*	13	
14	15	<16	17	18*	19*	20*	
21*	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28*	29*	30*	31*				
20C	February 2024						19I
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	
AISD student/staff holiday 19th							
				1*	2*	3	
4	<5	6	7	8*	9*	10*	
11*	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19*	20*	21*	22*	23*	24	
25	26	27	28	29			
15C	March 2024						14I
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
AISD spring break 11-15; student/staff holiday 29th							
3*	<4	5	6	7}	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	{18	19	20	21*	22*	23*	
24*	25	26	27	28	29*	30	
31							
21C	April 2024						21I
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
	1	2	3	4*	5*	6*	
7*	<8	9	10	11	12	13	
14*	15*	16*	17*	18*	19	20	
21*	22*	23*	24*	25*	26	27	
28	29	30					
18C	May 2024						17I
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	
AISD classes end 23rd							
			1	2*	3*	4*	
5*	<6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16*	17*	18*	
19*	20	21	22	23}	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		
	June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
						1	
2	3	4	5	<6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							
	July 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

&lt; New Employee Orientation • July 31; September 11; October 2; November 6; December 4; January 16; February 5; March 4; April 8; May 6; June 6

New Teacher Training Week • July 24-28; RI/TA/New Contract Staff Training Week • July 31-August 4

Staff Development Days • August 7-10; October 16; February 16 (6 total)

75,910 Instructional Minutes

First Day for Returning Staff • August 7

173 Instructional Days

Preparation Days • August 11; October 13; December 22; January 8; March 8; May 24 (6 total)

187 Contract Days

Registration Day/Prep Day • August 13

\* Short-term Programs

First Day of Classes • August 14; Last Day of Classes/Graduation Day • May 23

School Holiday for Students • Sept. 4; Oct. 13-16; Nov. 20-24; Dec. 22-Jan. 8; January 15; February 16-19; March 8-15; March 29; April 1

School Holiday for Staff • Sept. 4; Nov. 20-24; Dec. 25-January 5; January 15; February 19; March 11-15; March 29; April 1

% Bad Weather/Make Up Days • February 19 and March 29

{ } Family Day/ Conference Day • November 11

Summer School • June 9 – July 5 (tentative dates)

{ } Beginning and Ending of Grading Periods

Summer Preparation Day • June 7, July 8

Early Release Travel Days • October 12; December 21; February 15; March 7; March 28

Long Wednesdays • September 13; October 11; November 8; December 13; January 10; February 7; March 6; April 10; May 8

Short Thursdays • September 14; October 12; November 9; December 14; January 11; February 8; March 7; April 11; May 9

State Holidays: 9-4-23, 11-23 &amp; 24-23, 12-25 &amp; 12-26-23, 1-1-24; 1-15-24, 1-19-24, 2-19-24, 5-27-24; 6-19-24; 7-4-24



## **Weekends Home Stop Addresses 2023-2024**

### **Corpus Route - stopping in San Antonio, George West and Calallen**

#### **Corpus Route (San Antonio) Stop**

Applebee's  
7880 IH35 N  
San Antonio, TX 78218

#### **Corpus Route (George West) Stop**

Stripes #2446  
1800 I-37  
George West TX 78022

#### **Corpus Route (Calallen / Corpus Christi stop)**

Hobby Lobby,  
3549 I-69 Access Rd  
Corpus Christi, TX 78410

### **Dallas Route - stopping in Mesquite only**

#### **Dallas Route (Mesquite Stop)**

Academy Store  
1665 N Town east Blvd  
Mesquite TX 75150

### **Fort Worth Route - stopping in Belton, Waco and Fort Worth**

#### **Fort Worth Route (Belton Stop)**

Cefco C-store  
1702 Taylor's Valley Rd  
Belton TX 76513

#### **Fort Worth Route (Waco Stop)**

Qwik Trip  
2350 S New Rd  
Waco Tx 76711

#### **Fort Worth Route (Fort Worth Stop)**

TCCC South Campus Student Center  
5301 Campus Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76119

## **Weekends Home Stop Addresses 2023-2024 cont...**

### **Houston I and II Route - stopping in College Station and Houston**

#### **Houston Route (College Station Stop)**

JC Pennies at Post Oak Mall  
1500 Harvey Rd  
College Station Tx 77840

#### **Houston Route (Houston Stop)**

Region 4 Service Center  
7200 Northwest Dr  
Houston, TX 77092

### **Jacksonville Route - stopping in Franklin and Jacksonville**

#### **Jacksonville Route (Franklin stop)**

Mudd Creek Country Store  
1736 W Hwy 79  
Franklin, TX 77856

#### **Jacksonville Route (Jacksonville Stop)**

Schlotzsky's  
1664 S Jackson St (HWY 69)  
Jacksonville, TX 75766

**Please double check the stop times and pick-up addresses closely.  
There have been changes.**

## Weekends Home Pick-up and Drop-off times 2023-2024

### Corpus Route - stopping in San Antonio, George West & Corpus Christi

#### Friday

1:55pm depart TSBVI  
4:00pm depart San Antonio  
5:30pm depart George West  
6:30pm arrive Corpus Christi

#### Sunday

9:00am depart TSBVI  
1:30pm depart Corpus Christi  
2:30pm depart George West  
4:15pm depart San Antonio  
5:15pm arrive TSBVI

### Dallas Route - stopping in Mesquite only

#### Friday

1:55pm depart TSBVI  
6:45pm arrive Mesquite

#### Sunday

9:00am depart TSBVI  
1:30pm depart Mesquite  
6:15pm arrive TSBVI

### Fort Worth Route - stopping in Belton, Waco and Fort Worth

#### Friday

1:55pm depart TSBVI  
3:00pm depart Belton  
4:00pm depart Waco  
5:30pm arrive Fort Worth

#### Sunday

9:00am depart TSBVI  
1:30pm depart Fort Worth  
3:45pm depart Waco  
5:00pm depart Belton  
6:00pm arrive TSBVI

### Houston I and II Route - stopping in College Station and Houston

#### Friday

1:55pm depart TSBVI  
4:45pm depart College Station  
6:30pm arrive Houston

#### Sunday

9:30am depart TSBVI  
1:45pm depart Houston  
3:15pm depart College Station  
6:15pm arrive TSBVI

### Jacksonville Route - stopping in Franklin and Jacksonville

#### Friday

12:45 depart TSBVI  
3:30pm depart Franklin  
5:30pm arrive Jacksonville

#### Sunday

7:45am depart TSBVI  
12:45pm depart Jacksonville  
3:15pm depart Franklin  
5:00pm arrive TSBVI

Please double check the stop times and pick-up addresses closely.  
There have been changes to stop addresses and times.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What items must my child pack?

Residential and/or Instructional staff are responsible for ensuring that their students pack clothes, personal items, music players and other items that the student may need for the weekend. Please contact residential or day staff if you have specific items that you would like for your child to bring home on weekends. Also, for those students who may need a change on the bus, please provide between one to three changes of clothes and at least three diapers/pull-ups. These actions will help preserve your child's dignity and comfort throughout the trip. Thank You for your help!

### What do the students do during travel?

Because the buses are often crowded, we like travel to be fairly quiet, if possible. Most students socialize, listen to music or play games on an iPad. If your child has a favored leisure activity, fidget or toy that will help make travel relaxing for them, please send it along. Sometimes transitions can be hard, if you know of an activity that soothes your child when they are upset, please let us know about that as well.

### Do buses make a restroom stop?

Buses make one scheduled stop each way. The bus makes additional stops as needed, however we ask that you please take your child to the toilet prior to boarding the bus and refrain from providing excessive beverages before travel. Thank you. This really helps keep the trips as short as possible.

### Is food provided for my child?

We provide snacks for each student for the Friday trip. Please feed your child lunch before bringing them to the bus on Sundays. We do not provide snacks or lunch for the Sunday trip. Water and juice are available for students on all trips. Please do not give students large drinks before boarding the bus. Unplanned bathroom stops slow down the trip considerably. All drinks on the bus must have a screw on cap.



### Can my child purchase snacks at the restroom stop?

No. Due to time constraints and staffing issues, students may not buy snacks or other items at stores during the bus trips. Please plan ahead by providing snacks for return trips.

### What if my child has a special diet?

Friday snacks are prepared by the TSBVI Food Service department in accordance with dietary restrictions and allergy information provided to the Health Center. Please keep all dietary and Student Care Summary information current so that we may provide a safe and healthy meal for your child.

### Can I make changes to my child's travel schedule?

We will not be able to change the Weekends Home schedule assigned to your child except in emergency or critical situations. If you believe that you have an emergency or critical situation and would like to request a change in your child's schedule, this must be done no later than 4:00pm on the day before travel will occur. For travel changes please contact your students: Dorm Manager, the Health Center and the Coordinator of the Weekends Home Program.

### What happens during bad weather?

We will notify you of any cancellations or significant delays due to weather or any other unforeseen circumstances.

**Who can pick up my child at the bus**

For everyone's safety, TSBVI has strict rules about who can pick up your child up at the bus. Please be certain anyone who will pick up your student on Drop-off days is on their Weekends Home Permission's list. You will complete this list at registration. Please bring the full name and phone numbers of all the people you want on your students permissions list. If you need to add someone later in the year contact Cathy Olsen [olsenc@tsbvi.edu](mailto:olsenc@tsbvi.edu) 512-206-9182 or your student's dorm manager or Gian Calaci [calacig@tsbvi.edu](mailto:calacig@tsbvi.edu) 512-206-9231. Please take care of this before travel days.

**Can my child ride the bus if they are feeling ill?**

Students experiencing a temperature above 100 degrees, diarrhea, or vomiting will not be allowed to return on the bus or van in order to protect the other students from a contagion. If a staff member observes a student with any type of medical or health problem indicating that the child may not be healthy enough to return on the bus or van, the staff member may contact the TSBVI Health Center and describe the problem to the nurse on duty. The nurse will determine whether the student will be allowed to return on the bus or van. The staff member will inform you of the nurse's determination.

**How are my child's medications transferred to the school?**

Each bus has a Medications Sponsor who is responsible for picking up student medications from the Health Center on Fridays. Please meet this person at your stop to get your child's medication. If you forget to do this we will call you and ask you to return to the bus stop. If we cannot reach you by phone within a reasonable time period, your child's meds will be returned to the Health Center at TSBVI.

On Sundays please give all medications to the Medication Sponsor on your route. Do not pack medications in luggage, your child will not be allowed to board the bus until you give all medication to the bus Medication Sponsor, this is for everyone's safety. EMS must be able to locate all meds easily, in the event of an emergency.

If you forget to bring your child's medication to the bus or the prescription is not full enough to treat the student until her next visit home, your child may not be allowed to return to school. This will be determined by the Administration at TSBVI. The bus Medication Sponsors are not allowed to let a student on the bus until they have all the students' medications. Thank you for your attention to this very important detail for travel.

**What kind of training do Weekends Home staff members have?**

Weekends Home staff have a 40 hour training week at the beginning of each year and on-going training, as needed. Weekends Home staff are formally trained in: Infection Control, First Aid and CPR, bus evacuation procedures, emergency procedures, basic sign language, Orientation and Mobility, Positive Behavioral Support Techniques and MANDT®. Staff are also given professional development opportunities throughout the year to increase the quality of care that your child receives.

**Can I send money for my child with Weekends Home staff?**

Please remember that we will not be responsible for any money or valuables you send back with your child. Our staff is not allowed to accept money, and we strongly discourage parents from sending any money or valuables in students' luggage.

**Will I need an ID to pick up my child?**

Until the staff are familiar with you, you may be asked to show an ID before being allowed to pick up a student. Thank you for your patience with this, it is for everyone's safety.

**\*\*\*\*\*Important\*\*\*\*\***

If your child will not be returning on Sunday, please notify: Gian Calaci, Weekends Home Coordinator at 512-206-9231 or 512-844-9362 and their dorm manager. Thank you. This allows us plenty of time to adjust staffing as needed

## Weekends Home Vehicle Rules

1. **Respect the Rights of others.** Students must respect the rights and privileges of other students and Weekends Home staff.
2. **Respect Others' Property.** Students must respect the property of others.
3. **Cooperate with Staff.** Students must cooperate with and assist the Weekends Home staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
4. **Seatbelts.** Students are to remain seated and buckled in their seats as long as the vehicle is moving. At stops, all students should stay seated until instructed to exit the bus.
5. **Entertainment.** Independent leisure and social skills are important parts of the TSBVI curriculum and a balanced life. Your child is likely to enjoy a smoother bus trip if they carry several preferred leisure activities such as books, music, toys and crafts with them. Please remember to charge equipment and provide spare batteries for these long trips. We are happy to work with your student's team to establish a supportive bus routine for your child. If you have suggestions please share them.
6. **Headsets Required!** All radios, CD players, keyboards, electronic toys, etc. must be used with a headset unless Weekends Home staff has given permission otherwise.  
**SHH!** Students must keep all noise levels as low as possible.
7. **Rest Stops.** Students must cooperate to make each rest stop as safe and efficient as possible. Students will not be able to purchase snacks or drinks at rest stops. All students must be under direct supervision of a Weekends Home staff persons at all times during travel.
8. **Glass and other prohibited items.** Students may not bring glass objects or drinks without a screw top lid onto the vehicle. Students may not bring large drinks onto the bus. If you are sending your child with snacks, please send them with one serving size only, pack the rest in their luggage for later. Students who cannot regulate their serving sizes often end up sick on the bus resulting in: discomfort, illness and unplanned stops.
9. **No Cologne, Aerosols or Sprays.** Students may not bring aerosols or sprays (such as perfumes, colognes, etc.) into the seating area of the vehicle. Cologne and perfumes are discouraged because of close quarters and students with respiratory conditions.
10. **No Hanging Out the Windows.** Students must not throw or hang anything out of the window of the vehicle.
11. We have several students with **serious food allergies**. If your student's bus has a food restriction please follow this closely and understand that food allergies can cause serious and sudden emergencies.
12. The rules of the Student Code of Conduct apply at all times on Weekends Home vehicles.  
Dorm Manager's Contact

## **Weekends Home Information for families of students who fly.**

We are pleased that our students will be able to go home each weekend this year. We believe they will benefit from this additional time with their loved ones. In one sense, this will be easier as it is more consistent travel. In another sense, flying with students can be a bit more complicated than riding the buses. For this reason, we have laid out a set of expectation for the families of students who fly. Please follow these guidelines carefully as they will make travel safer and more relaxing for all the students who fly. Many Thanks for your attention to these details.

### **Tickets**

Most of your student's airline ticket information will come to you from their TSBVI dorm manager by the Wednesday before travel. On TSBVI Closure weekends, the Local Education Agency (LEA) is responsible for making arrangements for the cost of a student's travel to and from TSBVI. The LEA ensures that there is no cost to parents for this travel. (See Commissioner Rule 19 TAC 89.1090)

### **Day of travel**

**On day of travel, parents must be at the airport gate 1 hour before landing and takeoff.** This is required because the Flight Chaperones return to Austin promptly, often on the same plane they just got off. The person picking up and dropping off students must plan for: traffic slowdowns, parking problems, long lines, toileting needs and security issues. During your hour at the gate, please get the students medications ready and make sure they have used the restroom. Students should eat their lunch before travel.

### **Getting a gate pass for pick-up (Thursdays or Fridays)**

Someone must come to the gate to meet the student on Thursdays and Fridays. We do not have time to bring students out of the gate area. In order to come to the gate, you must get a gate pass. To do this, bring a valid ID and your students flight information to the airline ticket counter to request one. If you are unable to come to the gate you must appoint someone else to do this and add them to your students pick-up permissions list.

### **Getting a gate pass for drop off (Sundays and Mondays)**

In order to get a gate pass on return days, you must bring a valid ID and your students boarding pass to the airline ticket desk to request a gate pass. If you are unable to come to the gate you must appoint someone else to do this and add them to your students pick-up permissions list.

### **Independent travelers**

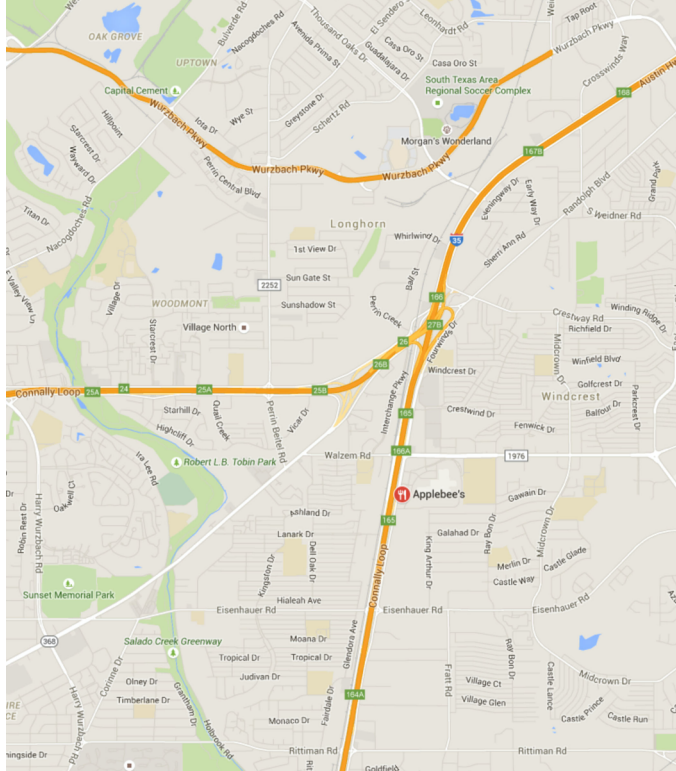
Some of our students can travel independently through the airport if they have clearance from their team. In order to get this team clearance please contact the Weekends Home Coordinator, Gian Calaci 512-206-9231. It will take a couple of weeks for teams to reach a decision. Here are some of the issues considered when making this decision.

Students permitted to travel without a chaperone must be able to deal with travel problems, such as: lost or stolen belongings, airline security issues, flight delays and cancellations, or personal safety issues. This requires a high degree of independent problem solving and advocacy skills.

## Corpus Christi Route – San Antonio Stop

Applebee's

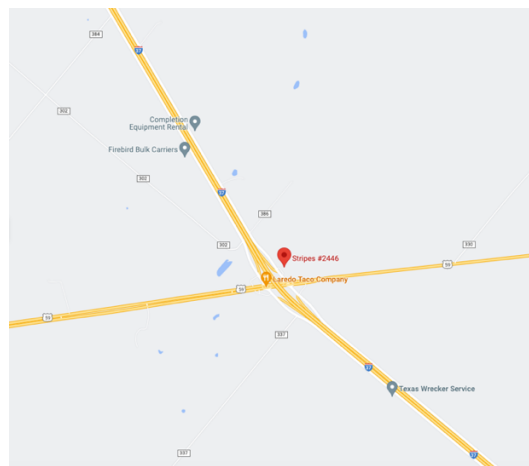
7880 IH35 N, San Antonio, Texas 78218



## Corpus Christi Route – George West stop

Stripes #2446

1800 I-37, George West Tx 78022

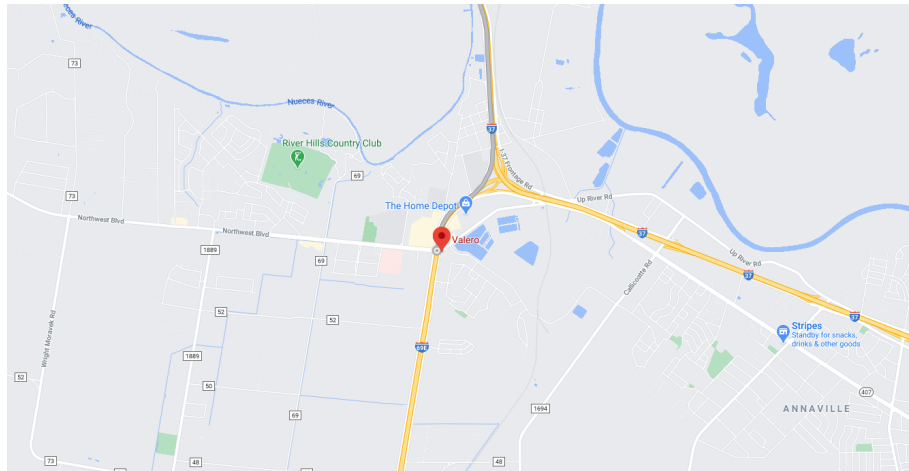




## Corpus Christi Route – Corpus Christi Stop

Valero

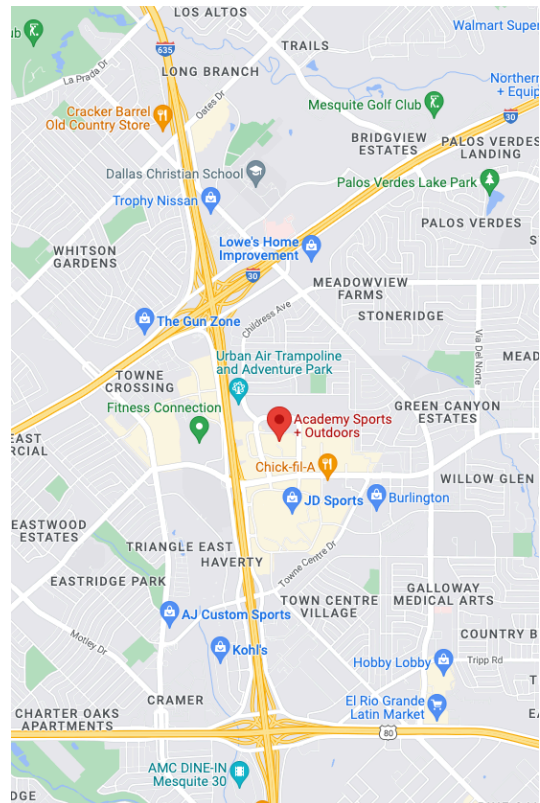
I-69 Access Rd, Corpus Christi, TX 78410



## Dallas Route (stopping in Mesquite only)

Academy Outdoor Store

1665 N Town E Blvd, Mesquite, TX 75150



## Fort Worth Route – Belton Stop

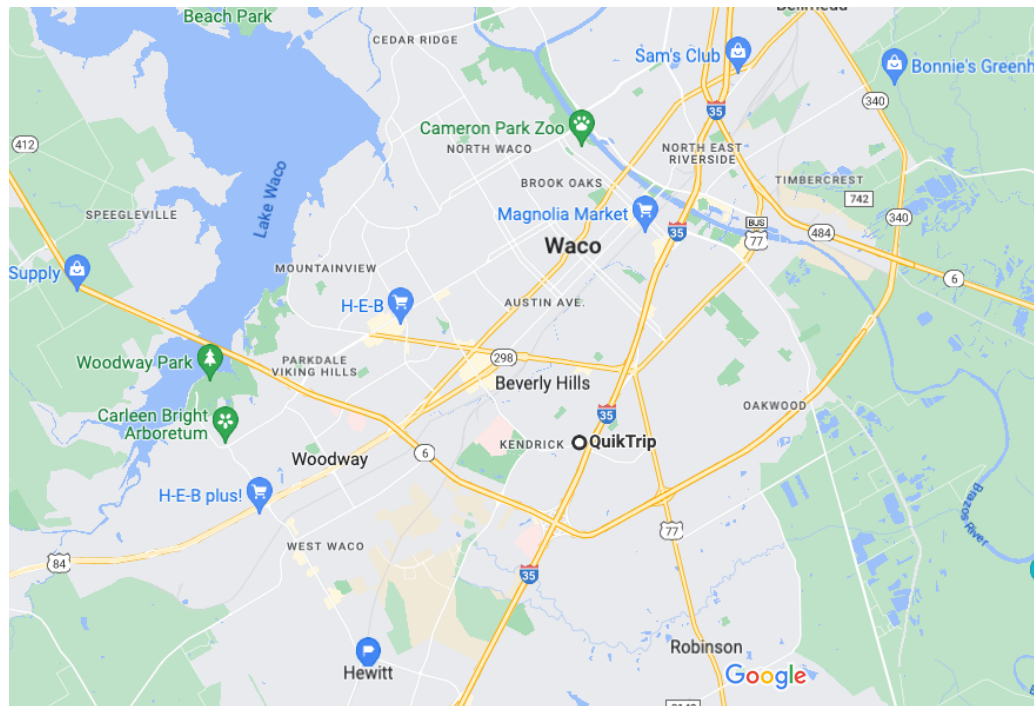
Cefco Convenience Store

1702 Taylor's Valley Rd, Belton, Texas 76513



## Fort Worth Route – Waco Stop (new venue!)

Qwik Trip  
2350 S New Rd Waco Tx 76711



## Fort Worth Route – Fort Worth Stop

Tarrant County Junior College South Campus Student Center

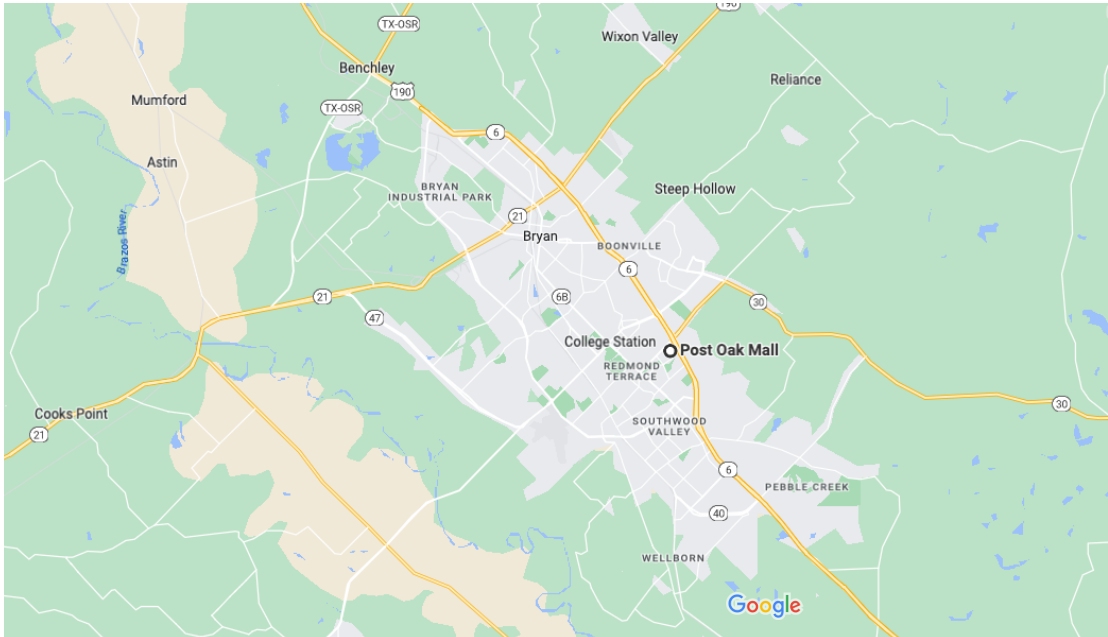
5301 Campus Drive, Fort Worth, Tx 76119



## Houston I and II Route – College Station Stop

JC Pennies at Post Oak Mall

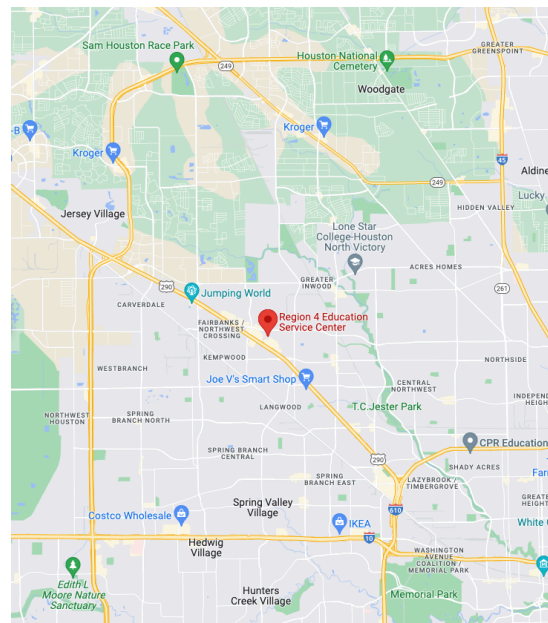
1500 Harvey Rd  
College Station Tx 77840



## Houston Route – Houston Stop

Region 4 Education Service Center,

7200 Northwest Dr, Houston, TX 77092



## Detail



## Jacksonville Route – Franklin Stop

Mudd Creek Country Store

1736 W Hwy 79, Franklin, TX 77856

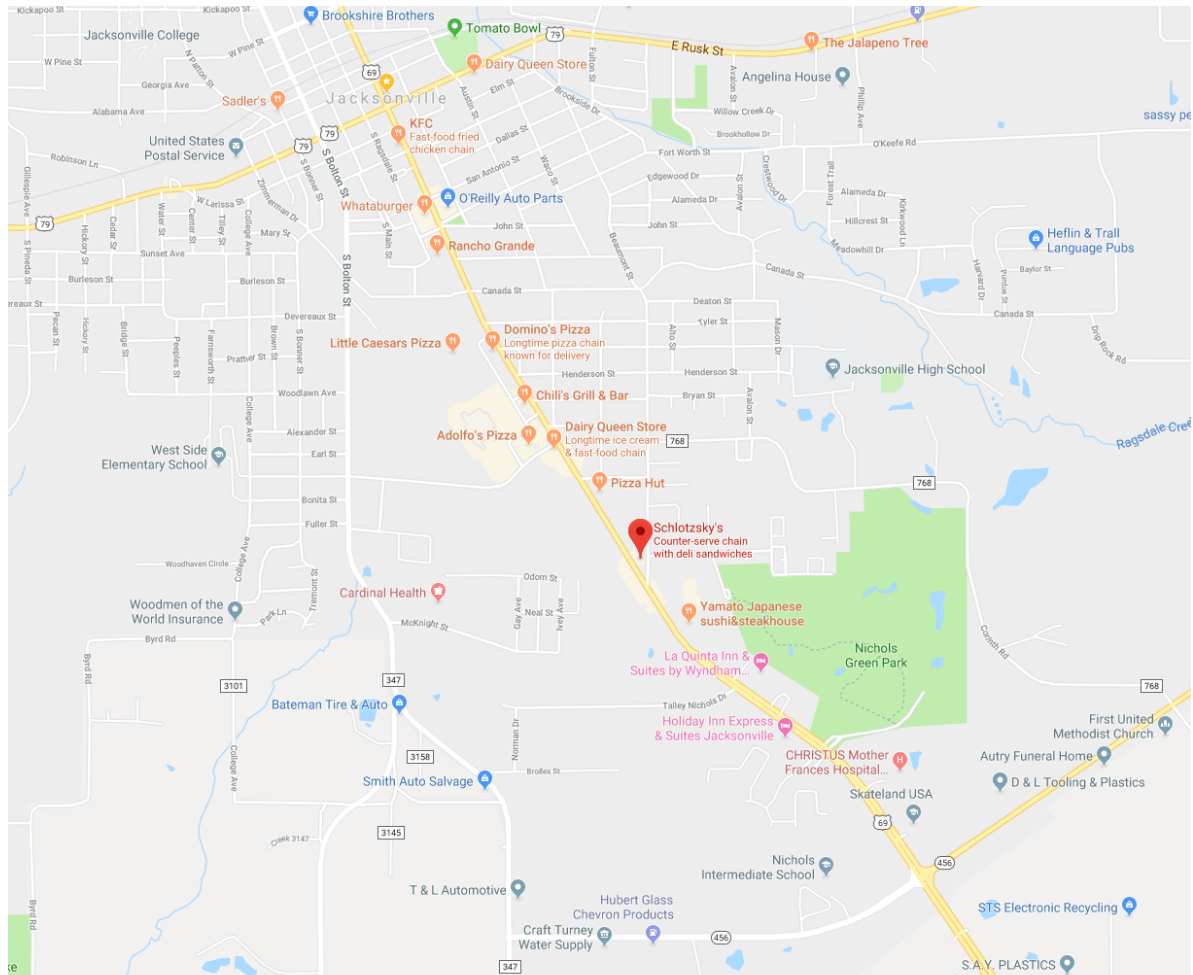




# Jacksonville Route – Jacksonville Stop

Schlotsky's

1664 S Jackson St, Jacksonville, TX 75766



## **Useful Numbers**

### **TSBVI Main number**

512-454-8631

### **Security**

512-844-5173

### **TSBVI Health Center**

512-206-9136

512-206-9138

512-300-1527

**emergencies dial 444 (512.206.9444)**

### **Weekends Home Coordinator: Glan Calaci**

Office 512-206-9231

Cell 512-844-9362

[calacig@tsbvi.edu](mailto:calacig@tsbvi.edu)

### **Residential Director: Matt Schultz**

Office 512-206-9348

[schultzm@tsbvi.edu](mailto:schultzm@tsbvi.edu)

### **Assistant Residential Director: Christina Casas**

Office: 512-206-9277

[casasc@tsbvi.edu](mailto:casasc@tsbvi.edu)

### **Assistant Residential Director: Laura Wofford**

Office: 512-206-9374

[woffordl@tsbvi.edu](mailto:woffordl@tsbvi.edu)

**Campus Charge Phones** 512-844-9248 or 512-781-4026.

**Corpus Christi bus** 512-844-8856

**Dallas Bus** 512-844-8731

**Fort Worth Bus** 512-844-8801

**Houston I Bus** 512-844-8815

**Houston II Bus** 512-844-7299

**Jacksonville** 512-296-0675

