

# New Bus Passes Raising Red Flag

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By Tiffany Goodwein

NEW BUS PASSES RAISING RED FLAG

Apr 22, 2019

A parent is sounding the alarm over the new bus passes for students at the Vernon School District.

The parent has told the Vernon School District at a recent meeting, the new passes contain too much personal information, and could jeopardize the safety of students if they end up in the wrong hands.

The passes show the name of the child, the times they need to get on and off the bus, the school the child attends, and what stop they need to go to, which is usually near child's home.

The district says they will take the parents' concerns into consideration.

Details of the new program were rolled out April 3rd, with students who ride school buses in District 22 now having to show the driver a bus pass each time they load their school bus.

"School District 22 is required to maintain a rider manifest for each bus run. Implementing bus passes within the district is a step towards improving student safety and ensuring students are riding the correct bus," said Robyn Stephenson, Manager of Transportation Services. "Bus passes will also assist school staff as they help students get on the correct bus and to the correct destination."

Bus drivers started asking students to present their pass as of April 8.

"All bus riders are required to register to ride the bus," continued Stephenson. "This will provide us with accurate ridership numbers and allow us to ensure we are providing the appropriate level of service for the number of riders we have registered."