

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. How do I get my student assigned to a school bus?

- A. Everything begins at the school. When you register your student, your residence address and other information is entered into the district data base. That evening the information is transferred to Transportation, and your student, if eligible, will be assigned to a stop.

The school will, at the time of registration, give you the bus information, and generate a bus pass for your student to give the driver. At that time, your student may ride the bus even if the registration information has not yet been entered.

2. I can't get bus service, I thought everyone got a bus ride if they wanted it.

- A. There are two primary reasons a student would not be eligible to receive school bus transportation. The first is the student lives within two miles of their assigned school. State rules (6A-3) define authorized students as being any student who lives more than two miles from the school as measured from the nearest entrance into the school to the nearest point where public land intersects the residence property. So if you live within that residence, as measured by the roads traveled, you would not be eligible for the school bus.

The second reason would be you are not living within the defined attendance area of the school your student attends. If a student is enrolled in a school not assigned by the residence, this is considered a school of choice. Under school board policy, any student enrolled at a school of choice is not entitled to school board transportation to that school. Parents, when completing the assignment request, acknowledge the responsibility to providing the transportation.

3. Why can't I have a bus stop closer to my house?

- A. Transportation establishes stops based on safety of stop location and walk paths, student residence, school board policy regarding walking distance, distance between stops, and maximum number of students assigned to a stop, and efficiency. When combined, some students may walk further to a stop than others but everyone is assured a safe bus stop, and walk path within school board policy walking distances. Adding or changing a bus stop has a potentially negative affect on the other students assigned to the bus. It may lengthen the time it takes the bus to reach school or other stops. It may require other students to walk further than previously established. For these reasons, Transportation will only adjust a stop if a recognizable safety hazard or a violation of school board policy has taken place.

4. When should I have my student at the bus stop, and how long should I wait if the bus is late?

- A. Students should arrive at a bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled stop time and remain at the bus stop until the bus arrives. While we make every effort to be consistent, the unexpected and unplanned does happen.

5. I want my student to go to another stop in the afternoon. What do I need to do?

- A. Start at the school. Board policy requires school principals or their designee to approve **any** stop changes.

If your student is in elementary school, and is using a day care facility within the attendance area of the assigned school, the school may issue a bus pass for your student changing the bus stop. If the change is permanent, the bus pass will reflect the new information which is entered into the Transportation data base. The stop change must be for the full school week.

If this is a one-time situation for either an elementary or secondary student, give a note to the school explaining the need for an alternative stop. The school will issue a temporary bus pass to your student for that day.

NOTE: The requested stop change must be within the school attendance area and for an existing stop. Students will not be transported outside of the school attendance area or to a stop not already established.

6. Why do I need to be at the bus stop with my kindergarten or first grade student? Why do I have to come to the door of the bus, the driver can see me?

- A. The safety of your children is paramount for the school district. School Board policy requires any pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or first grade student be met at the bus stop before a driver can release the student. This ensures our youngest students are in the care of a parent or someone the parent trusts before we let them leave our care.

These young students do not always make wise choices. Accidents can and do happen in a few steps. Substitute drivers, and even regular drivers may not know who is at the stop to meet a student on any particular day. For this reason, any person taking custody of a young student must come to the door of the bus to receive them. This ensures the driver knows someone is there, and who that person is. It also ensures someone has immediate custody of the student so those unwise choices don't happen.

7. Why did my student's:

- A. Stop time change – After the school year begins, the district continues to enroll or disenroll students. These students may require new bus stops, or change the demographic of existing stops. These changes impact the bus route times, and may result in time changes.
- B. Bus Number change – Our school buses are inspected every 25 school days. When a bus is inspected, a substitute bus is added to the run. Each substitute bus will have the original bus number printed on the window by the passenger door. If a bus requires extended repairs, a substitute bus will be placed on the run until the original bus is returned to service. On some occasions after school begins, we may need to move a stop from one bus to another. In this situation, the bus number change is permanent and a notice will be sent to parents/guardians.

- C. Stop location change – Occasionally student demographics change, or walking hazards are identified (new construction, changes in road conditions, etc.). When these occur, a stop location will be adjusted to a safer or more central location on the route. Stop locations are designed to accommodate all the assigned students in an area, and to ensure the safest walk path to the stop. When these changes take place, parents will be notified of the change at least 24 hours in advance.