

Questions and Concerns

Q. How are transportation service areas determined?

A. Whether or not a student lives within the district's transportation service area is determined by measuring the shortest distance from the student's residence (where the front of the property meets the street), by reasonably safe walkway, street or highway that is accessible to the public, to the assigned entrance of the school the student attends. If any portion of where the front of the residential property meets the street is outside this distance, the student will be provided busing to and from school. The Transportation Coordinator determines the shortest or most direct route.

Q. How do I know if we are eligible for transportation service?

A. You may access the Transportation Department website at www.district196.org/District/Departments/Transportation/TransportationDistances.cfm. This will give you information on the busing and non-busing areas.

Q. How will I know which bus my child takes?

A. Parents receive a postcard before school starts each fall showing bus stop locations, bus numbers and times for the school(s) your child(ren) attends. You may also access this information via the district website at www.district196.org and click on MY BUS STOP, which requires a "PIN" and student ID number (not available to non-public school students).

Q. How are bus stop locations determined?

A. Bus stops are established as defined in Policy 707, Student Transportation.

Our goal is to consistently identify bus stops in neighborhoods on the basis of safety, efficiency and distance between stops. Generally bus stops are located at an intersection in order for the driver to have a wide area to scan for traffic and students, to create efficient routes and to minimize buses backing up.

- School bus drivers do not have the authority to change bus routes or student pick-up/drop-off locations.
- Generally, bus stops are located at least three blocks apart.
- Up to 25 students may be assigned to a bus stop. This number may be exceeded at cul-de-sacs, high-density housing areas and high school stops because students are not standing on through streets and/or they are older.
- Bus stops are placed at locations that meet defined criteria, are centrally located and within reasonable walking distances from the student's home.
- We are not able to locate all bus stops within the line of sight of each student's home or daycare.

Q. What is the maximum length of time for a bus route?

A. Routes are established so no student rides the bus for more than one hour and 15 minutes one way. Preschool routes will be established so no student rides the bus for more than 45 minutes one way.

- Q. Under what conditions is consideration given to adjusting bus stop locations?**
- A. Roads and streets sometimes intersect on areas of road that cause concern for school bus transportation and other drivers. We make every effort to select safe places to load and unload students given these varying factors of roads, streets, traffic speed and locations of residences. Adjustments to bus stops may be made when we believe a safer alternative is available (Administrative Regulation 707.2AR, School Bus Safety).
- Q. Why do some children have to cross the street to board the bus?**
- A. We are not able to route buses so that all children can wait for the bus on the door side. We recommend that children wait on the side of the street that they reside. The bus will activate warning lights and a stop arm to alert traffic in order to accommodate students that need to cross the street to board the bus.
- Q. Will the bus drive into a cul-de-dac or down a dead-end street?**
- A. Except to transport special education students, buses generally are not routed down cul-de-sacs because of the danger to small children and property caused by the bus turning around and/or backing up in a small area. However, elementary school buses are routed down cul-de-sacs which are one-half mile long or longer, and middle school and high school buses are routed down cul-de-sacs which are one mile or longer.
- Q. My child carries a large musical instrument and/or a heavy backpack, and he/she is the only student using the bus stop. Can the stop be moved closer to our home?**
- A. Generally, bus stops are centrally located for all students. Bus stops are not changed to accommodate one or more students because that may displace other students further from their home. Even though other students living along the route may not be riding the bus, we must keep bus stops as they have been published. A central bus stop is necessary because other students may begin riding the bus or new families may move into the neighborhood. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that their child arrives safely at the bus stop.
- Q. The bus drives right past my house. Why can't it stop at my house?**
- A. The higher frequency of stops makes other drivers impatient. This may result in drivers driving around the bus and causes greater safety concerns than the distance a student has to walk to the bus stop. It also delays the bus by increasing the number of stops, making overall student ride time longer.
- Q. What if my child occasionally needs to be dropped off at a different stop?**
- A. Students may be picked up or dropped off at a destination other than their normal bus stop only when requested in writing by the student's parent or guardian and approved by the school principal. The approved request (with the principal or designee's signature) must be given to the bus driver each time a different pick-up or drop-off site is desired.



Q. How can I help my child have a successful bus ride to/from school?

- A.**
1. Arrange for your students to be at their bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
 2. Monitor children from damaging the property of others at the bus stop.
 3. Be aware that the bus will pick up and drop off students at the same stop every day school is in session.
 4. Help your children learn their bus numbers.
 5. Review the bus safety rules outlined in this book with your children.
 6. For the first days of school, accompany younger children to the bus stop in the morning and meet the bus at the end of the day, or arrange for an older child or child care provider to be at the bus stop.
 7. Understand that the bus pick-up and drop-off times are based on existing weather and road conditions. Traffic congestion, road construction, inclement weather and population changes may cause minor adjustments in pick-up and drop-off times. Parents will be notified of any major changes in bus schedules that affect their child.