



Transportation - Frequently Asked Questions

When should my child be at the bus stop in the morning?

Riders should be at their stop at least (5) five minutes before the bus is scheduled to be there. This allows for some variation in traffic patterns and prevents students from missing the bus.

Why do bus pickup and drop off times vary, especially at the beginning of the year?

At the beginning of the year it takes extra time for the schools to load all the students on their correct busses, drivers are learning new routes and becoming familiar with new students, and parents are asking questions and getting to know their new drivers. Once the year gets underway, things settle into a pattern and routes run on time unless there are traffic or weather disruptions.

How far can a bus stop be from a student's home?

Bus stops may be up to 1.5 miles from the student's home. RC255 tries to vary stops between 1 to 3 blocks.

Why are there more group stops than individual stops?

To provide the most efficient transportation possible, students are placed at group stops that are centrally located to serve everyone fairly. Fewer stops reduce student ride time and lead to less wear and tear on the bus.

What about the safety of my child – I can't see the bus stop from my front porch?

If parents are uncomfortable with their students going to a stop out of view from the house, we would encourage them to either walk their child to the stop or share bus stop supervision with other neighborhood parents.

We live in a Cul-de-sac. Will the bus come down our street?

Only for certain student circumstances that require a door to door pickup. Buses in Cul-de-sacs are difficult to maneuver. Backing up a bus with students on board is not permitted without a spotter. Cul-de-sacs offer too many blind spots and perils to safely navigate.

Why do some children have to cross the street to board the bus?

We are not able to route buses so that all children can board the bus on the door side. Students should wait on the side of the street that they reside on and wait until the bus comes to a complete stop. The driver will put out the stop arm and determine that all traffic has stopped before motioning students across.

Are districts required to provide transportation for regular education pre-kindergarten students?

No. Districts may provide transportation to prekindergarten regular education students, but are not required to do so. If a district elects to transport regular education prekindergarten students, they may claim reimbursement if the student(s) ride on a regular route with other kindergarten through grade 12 students. If pre-kindergarten regular education students are transported on an exclusive pre-kindergarten route, then they are considered non-reimbursable for claim purposes.

Statutory Citation: 105 ILCS 5/29-5

Administrative Rule: 23 Ill Admin Code, Section 120.30(a)



Are districts required to provide door-to-door transportation for prekindergarten or elementary-age students?

No, unless it is required per the Individualized Education Program (IEP) of a student with disabilities. Parents/guardians are responsible to see that the child is at the scheduled bus stop in time to board the school bus to go to school and be at the bus stop upon the child's return at the end of the school day.

Is the driver of a school bus required to see that a child reaches their home or destination safely after discharging them at an assigned stop?

No. The responsibility of the driver ends at the time the student is discharged. Once the child leaves the bus, the parent is responsible between the bus stop and the home.

Are bus riders allowed to ride another bus to a friend's house?

RC255 policy is that middle and high school students may ride the bus home with another middle school or high school bus rider when approved. Both parents need to write notes to that effect and the students will present the notes to the building administrator. If the building administrator approves this action they will sign the note and return to student. The student will present the note to the bus driver. Elementary students are not allowed this option due to their age, and potential confusion related to changing busses. Parents will have to transport elementary students for after school changes such as a play date, study group, etc...

Is the district required to transport students who live less than one and one-half miles from their assigned attendance center?

No. School boards may provide transportation for pupils living less than one and one-half miles as measured by the customary route of travel from the school attended and may make a charge for such transportation in an amount not to exceed the cost thereof, which shall include a reasonable allowance for depreciation of the vehicles so used.

Statutory Citation: 105 ILCS 5/29-2

Who determines the locations of the bus stops (pickup/drop-off points)?

The school board of the district is required to establish the bus stops (pickup/drop-off points) for eligible students at a point located not more than one and one-half miles from the exit of the property of each pupil assigned to such point. The school district is **not** required to provide door-to-door service.

Statutory Citation: 105 ILCS 5/29-3

Is there a time limit a student can spend on the school bus?

No. However, RC255 strives to limit the travel time to not more than one hour one way.

Are students allowed to eat or drink on a school bus?

The Illinois State Board of Education highly recommends that all districts adopt a policy of No eating on a school bus. This includes the school bus driver. The primary responsibility of the school bus driver is to transport children to and from school, between attendance centers or on extracurricular or interscholastic trips safely. To do that, the driver must keep his/her eyes on the road, mindful of the movement of traffic around the school bus. The driver also has responsibility to control the conduct of the students on the bus. The close-spaced, high seatbacks prevent the driver from seeing all of the activities of the students on the bus, including eating. Depending on the circumstances, the driver may not be able to reach a child in time to prevent the child from choking to death. Coaches or other



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teachers or chaperones on extracurricular trips are not necessarily certified to administer first aid in an emergency. The driver is ultimately responsible for what happens on the school bus. If students are on a trip and eating is scheduled on the way, the bus must be stopped long enough for students to safely eat and the bus to be cleaned of trash.

What is the allowable number of students that can be seated on a school bus?

1. No school bus shall be operated with more passengers than recommended by the manufacturer per Section 12-707 of the Vehicle Code [625 ILCS 5/12-707].
2. In determining seating capacity of a bus, individual seating should be based on 13 inches per child where a 3-3 (three pupils on both sides of aisle) seating plan is used and 15 inches where 3-2 (three pupils on one side of aisle and two pupils on other side of aisle) plan is used.
3. School buses can transport three to a seat if passengers are in kindergarten through grade 5, and two per seat in grades 9-12. For students in grades 6 through 8, school districts should vary the capacity of the bus depending on the size of the students. This ensures every student the safety factor of compartmentalization.
4. **Standing** while school buses and school-chartered buses are in motion **shall not be permitted**.

Can students bring sporting equipment or large band instruments on the bus and store them in the aisle?

Students can bring sporting equipment or band instruments on the bus but the items cannot be placed in the aisle. Students will need to hold onto the extra items in their seat or place them under the seat. The aisle and exits of the bus need to remain clear at all times.