

USD 417 - Transportation FAQs

Is there a fee to ride the bus? No, state funding supports transportation for students living more than 2.5 miles from an attendance center. The district provides town stops for free for those students who live within 2.5 miles of an attendance center.

Can my child ride any bus or get off at any stop?

Students will be assigned to a bus based on their home address. In order to ride a different bus, or to get off at a different stop, parents/guardians must provide details for alternate arrangements information during enrollment.

Returning Students should use the “Alternate Site/Special Instructions” text box on the Transportation page during online enrollment. New Students must contact the Transportation Director at the District Office (620-767-5192). Requests for transportation to or from any address other than a home address must be approved in advance by the Transportation Director.

Do I need to call when my student will not be riding the bus? If your student is picked up at a door-to-door/end-of-driveway stop, please contact your regular route driver OR call the District Office at 620-767-5192 to let us know when your student won’t be riding to or from school. If your student gets picked up or dropped off at a town stop with other students, you do not need to call.

How long does the driver wait at a bus stop? The bus will not wait for students – students must be visible and ready to board the bus when it arrives. Students should be waiting at the bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to their pick-up time, and they should go directly to the bus when school dismisses for take-home.

Will the driver honk the bus’s horn at the bus stop, so that my student knows when to come out to the bus? No. Buses will stop when students are visible. Students should always be ready and waiting at their assigned stop at least 5-10 minutes before the scheduled pick up time.

What happens if my student misses the bus? Students should go directly to the bus when school dismisses for take-home. If they miss the bus, they will need to call their parents and find alternate transportation.

Will the bus pick up my student at our house? Town students will be picked up at established bus stops. Special needs and rural students will be picked up at the end of the driveway of their home.

Does my child have an assigned seat on the bus? This varies by route. Drivers do have the authority to assign seats.

Do you provide transportation for my preschool student? Preschool students may ride a route bus if it is a regular stop for their siblings (rural students only). Transportation is provided for Prairie Heights students to and from the PHES school building.

How does After School Sports Transportation work? Students sign up daily in the office for transportation.

The bus will only deliver to Board-approved stops, a list of which may be found in the Transportation Handbook. Students must ride if they sign up – failure to sign up or failure to ride after having signed up may result in loss of privilege.

Do you return students home after activity trips? No, the bus returns to the school the student attends. If an approved stop (that is on the route) has been requested in advance, a student may be left there.

Can students bring food or drinks on the bus?

Students should not bring food or drinks on route buses, except for a bottle of water during hot weather. There are exceptions based on the length of the route.

Can students bring band instruments on the bus?

Instruments are allowed on the bus if the student can hold it on their lap. Larger instruments, like the tuba and French horn for example, are too large to be transported safely on the bus.

Are students allowed to carry glass jars or other fragile items on the bus for school projects? Glass objects of any kind are not allowed on the bus. All items should fit in a back pack or a bag small enough to carry on the student’s lap and should not contain glass or fragile items which can easily break.

Are animals allowed on the bus? No. The only exception would be service animals, with prior approval by the Special Ed Coop.

If my student gets in trouble on the bus, will I be notified? Yes. This is detailed in the Bus Handbook.

What if the bus does not show up? Call the District Office immediately, and we will attempt to discover the reason for the delay or missed stop and give you an estimated time of arrival.

Please contact the District Office at 620-767-5192 if you have any questions.