

Parent Questions

Resource: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Transportation/School-Transportation-FAQs>

I cannot see my child's bus stop from the house. Are there state laws that set the standards for bus stop location?

No law requires a parent to see the bus stop from home. Students in Ohio may be assigned to a bus stop up to one-half mile from their home and we encourage parents to accompany their child to the bus stop whenever possible. This teaches the child safe habits of walking to and from the bus stop and may give the parent piece of mind. Bus stop locations are determined by each district's board of education.

Are sidewalks required for my child to get to his/her bus stop?

Many students walk alongside of roadways to reach their bus stop and in some instances no sidewalks exist. While we understand this may be of concern in some situations, the Department of Education does not promulgate bus stop placement. Issues relating to where a child's bus stop is located and safety concerns along the way to the bus stop must be addressed with the district in which you reside.

I transport my child to a nonpublic/community school each day and just learned a program exists for reimbursement. How can I be reimbursed for transporting my child?

As a parent, you should contact your public school district and request transportation. If it is not practical for them to do so, they will work with you to initiate a process to establish payment-in-lieu of transportation. Parents are not afforded the option of being paid for transporting their own child in cases where the service is provided by the district but is not the service parents prefer.

I make my child wait inside of my house until the bus is at the stop. I have heard this is not allowed – is this true?

Ohio law requires children to be waiting at the bus stop prior to its arrival. Bus drivers count the students at the bus stop before they load and as they get on the bus to ensure all children are safely on board. If students are not waiting at the bus stop the bus driver cannot count them and cannot be certain the students are all safely on board. Waiting at the bus stop before the bus arrives further ensures that no one chases after the bus – this is a very dangerous thing to do. Many districts also instruct their buses to not stop at locations where no students are waiting.

My child has an I.E.P. but transportation is not being provided. Why is this?

A child who has an I.E.P. does not automatically receive transportation unless the I.E.P. team writes this into the related services. If transportation is not included on the I.E.P. your child will be transported similarly to regular education students in your district.

Additional facts:

I cannot see my child's bus stop from the house. Are there state laws that set the standards for bus stop location? Continued:

Almost 50% of students are picked up or dropped off at stops out of view from their homes. School bus service is a mass transit service. We can't assure you that you will be able to see your child's stop from the front door of your house. Northwest Local School District is responsible for students once they board the bus. Families are responsible for the safety and supervision for their students to and from the bus stop, as well as while they are waiting for the bus.

How are bus stops established?

Every effort is made to establish school bus stops at the nearest intersection of where students live. We do not make door-to-door stop as a rule. Exceptions are on a case-by-case basis. Please reference ***I cannot see my child's bus stop from the house. Are there state laws that set the standards for bus stop location AND Are sidewalks required for my child to get to his/her bus stop,*** from above

I don't think my student has the right bus stop?

The computer sometimes will assign a stop in error. If you think your student has received the wrong stop, please call 825-4600 and ask for the Transportation Coordinator.

Daycare Providers:

The daycare provider you choose MUST be inside the transported attendance area of the school your student attends. The service may differ from morning and afternoon. (Example; the student can be picked up in the morning from home and dropped off at the daycare/sitter in the afternoon.) However, the alternate transportation MUST occur on a 5 day basis. Forms for Special Transportation Requests are available on our department page, from the school or here at the transportation office (3113 Springdale Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45251). It can take up to 5 days to process depending on how many are being processed and other work obligations.

Who do I notify when we are moving into or out of the district?

Please notify the secretary at the building(s) that your student(s) attend. They will get your proof-of-residency and submit to transportation to get busing set up. They will notify busing is suspended if you are moving out.

Who do I notify when I am moving inside of the district?

If you are moving within the same attendance area of the current school your student is attending, notify the secretary at that school. She/He will get your new proof-of-residency and submit your new address to transportation so busing can be updated.

If you are moving outside of the attendance area of the school your student is currently attending, notify the secretary at the current school so they know your student will be transferring. Notify the new attendance area school so the secretary can get your new proof-of-residency and submit your new address to transportation so busing can be updated.

When do I receive my pass for my child?

You should receive your child's bus pass at least one week before the first day of school.

What do I need to do to get a bus pass? (New enrollees only)

Students must be enrolled and have a student ID number before being set up for busing. You must live in the transported area and not be within the walk-in boundary to receive busing. Once enrollment is completed, the school secretary will notify transportation so busing can be set up. The secretary will then issue a bus pass for your child.

What are the bus rules and where can I find them?

Resource: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Transportation/Transportation-Rules-and-Regulations>

Above is a link for the Ohio Department of Education website. Here you will find the Transportation Rules and Regulations pertaining to the school bus. Also, there is the Board of Education District Policies that detail the Code of Regulations for Students. This is found in the student handbook that is given to each student at the beginning of the year. If your student did not receive one or lost it, please ask the school secretary for one. ***Remember, the rules at school apply to the school bus. The school bus is an extension of school and behavior on the bus should mirror the behavior at school.***

Why don't school buses have seat belts?

Resource: <https://www.thoughtco.com/why-dont-buses-have-seatbelts-2798819>

Twenty three million kids nationwide ride the school bus every day, and the bulk of them are making the trip without a seat belt.

So why do cars come with seat belts and most school buses don't?

The main answer, at least for school buses (virtually all research on buses and seatbelts has focused on school buses) is that seatbelts do not make school buses safer.

Overall, travel on a school bus is the safety way to travel—40 times safer than riding in a car—with only a handful of deaths occurring to passengers on school buses every year.

The explanation for the safety of school buses is explained by a concept called compartmentalization. In compartmentalization, the seats on the school bus are placed very close to each other and have high backs that are very padded. As a result, in an accident, the student would be propelled forward a very short distance into a padded seatback that, in a way, is like an early version of an airbag. In addition, the fact that people sit high off the ground in school buses also adds to the safety, as the impact location with an automobile would occur beneath the seats.

While school buses and highway buses both feature high-backed seats and elevated seating locations, the same cannot be said of city buses. In fact, the transverse seats—the seats that are parallel to the side of the buses—do not have any protection in terms of seats in front of them that can absorb an impact.

And, while the nearly universal trend of purchasing low-floor buses makes it much easier for passengers, particularly elderly and disabled passengers, to get on and off the bus, it also means that in the event of a crash the other vehicle could end up in the seating area.

Another answer why buses do not have seatbelts is cost.

It is estimated that adding seat belts to buses would add between \$8,000 and 15,000 to the cost of each bus. In addition, seatbelts would take up room currently used as seats, meaning that each bus would have fewer seating places. The additional room in the bus taken up by seatbelts would mean that bus fleets would have to increase by as much as 15% just to carry the same number of people. Such an increase would be especially difficult in cities that experience overcrowding on their transit vehicles.

The federal government only requires seat belts in small buses that weigh less than 10,000 pounds where having a seat belt would affect safety.