

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can my child ride one bus 3 days a week and a different bus the other two days?

Due to safety reasons & transportation efficiency it is mandatory to ride to and from school on the same bus. Having inconsistency with your child's schedule causes confusion with staff, drivers and students resulting your child getting on the wrong bus. If possible, have your child have the same riding schedule each day.

2. Will my child's pick-up and drop-off be at our house?

Students are assigned to the closest group stop (most allotment areas are group stops) in the morning and in the afternoon.

3. Are there any rules I should teach my child before school starts?

See the Student Bus Safety Rules link for rules to review with your child. Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

4. Should I be at the bus stop with my child to help him cross the street?

The bus driver will use hand signals for students that must cross the street. You should explain to your child to **ALWAYS** look at the driver and wait for the hand signal before crossing the street. This applies to when the children are getting on the bus at their designated stop or off the bus to go home. This allows the driver to check all their mirrors to make sure that all traffic has stopped. The stop arm goes out from the front of the bus, which allows children to walk outside the bus' danger zone. Also, ask your child to look both ways for traffic prior to crossing the street.

5. What happens if you drop off my child at the assigned time and place and I am not home?

Our responsibility for the safety of your child ends when we drop the child off at the designated stop / driver place of safety. You and your child should have an alternate plan in case this situation arises. Kindergarten and young elementary students we do require for an

adult to be visibly present before they are dropped off. If no one is present the driver will take the child back to the elementary latchkey program, at your expense.

6. Are there items my child is not permitted to bring on the bus?

Children are not permitted to eat, drink, chew gum or have GLASS items on the bus (possible choking issue). Children are also not permitted to use cell phones while on the bus just like a classroom setting. Any type of school projects or large items such as band instruments must be able to be held on the child's lap. Smaller items must be contained in book bag or a tied bag (ex. Balls, toys)/ **The aisles of the bus must remain clear.** We ask that if your child has something large or bulky that you transport them to and from school.

7. Are there seatbelts on the bus?

For maximum safety the bus is compartmentalized. This means that the seats have high backs and are spaced appropriately that each seat section forms a compartment.

8. What time do I send my child out to the bus stop?

Your child should be **OUTSIDE** at the bus stop **FIVE TO TEN minutes** prior to the estimated arrival time and be **prepared and dressed appropriately for weather conditions** to allow for bus delays (i.e. traffic, weather, mechanical breakdowns, substitute driver, etc.)

9. 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 peace of mind. Bus stop locations are determined by each district's Transportation Supervisor and approved by the Board of Education.

10. 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 oversee 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 transportation department.

11. 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. We do not require buses to stop at locations where no students are waiting. Please have them at their bus stop early.

12. How do cluster stops save money?

Cluster stops save money by reducing the number of stops a bus must make during each route. Mechanical savings include but are not limited to: reduced tire wear, better fuel economy, because of fewer stops and start-ups, less wear and tear on braking systems, so brake drums and brake shoes last longer. Personnel savings include but are not limited to: reduced route time reduces our hourly wages for each route. Putting more students on the bus should allow us to fill the bus sooner and reduce the number of buses needed to transport the students. Each bus that is taken off the road saves us approximately \$26,000.00.