

Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Transportation Department

A simple guide for bus riders

36745 Marquette Westland, MI 48185 / 734-419-2000



Welcome

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools Transportation Department has provided this brochure to familiarize you with our procedures as they relate to your child's school transportation. Remember, it is the parents or guardians of bus transported students who are responsible for getting their children to and from the bus stop.

Please remember: riding the bus is a privilege.

Bus Eligibility

Only Wayne-Westland Community School District students can ride the school bus during the scheduled school day. Transportation is provided for:

- Elementary students who live one mile or greater from their designated school
- Middle and High School students who live one and a half miles or greater from their designated school

Parent Requested Assignment

Students approved for School of Choice through the Student Service Department are not eligible for transportation as stated on the form. Parents or students who request an assignment to a school other than their designated home school do not receive transportation by the District.

Transportation must be provided by the parent/guardian of the student.

New Student/New Address

Because routing can sometimes be complex and student information systems need to be updated, a student's bus assignment, due to new enrollment or an address change, may take three to five days for general education students and up to five days for special education students. We will try our best to place your student on a bus as soon as possible. Same day busing for new students or address changes is not possible.

Students with Special Needs

Because of efficiencies, all parents of students with special needs should contact the transportation office at 734-419-2150 if your child will not be attending school on a given day. This will allow the drivers to make adjustments to their routes and keep the buses on schedule. Please do not contact the bus driver.

Daycare/Split Family Time

Students with two home addresses may ride either bus as long as the address is within their home school boundary. For dual address situations please complete the "Split Family Time Form" located on the District's Website under Transportation.

Bus Route Efficiency

A bus route is designed to make maximum use of each vehicle. Efficient routes make minimal stops and travel down a limited number of streets. Unnecessary stops or delays have a ripple effect on the entire schedule. Safety and efficient use of time are the reasons our buses do not travel down cul-de-sacs or dead-end streets. Sending a bus down these types of streets sometimes requires the bus to backup; this is a potentially dangerous situation and one that the Michigan Department of Education advises against.

Inclement Weather

There may be times during the school year where it may be necessary to cancel school due to adverse weather conditions. WWCS gathers information on road and weather conditions from a wide variety of sources. The WWCS administration considers the actual weather conditions, the forecasted weather and the projected impact on road conditions during the peak student transportation windows. Every attempt is made to provide the public with information on school cancellations as early as possible. When WWCS are closed, we will not transport any students, including special needs to another district. The announcement will be

communicated on all local media such as local radio and local television, in addition to being posted on the front

page of our website, www.wwcsd.net

In situations where road conditions are snow or ice covered, some buses may be running late. If you need to know the status of the bus route, please call dispatch at 734-419-2150. Regardless of how late the bus is running, all assigned routes are completed.

Bus Stops

1. Students should be at the bus stop at least ten minutes before their scheduled pick up time. Students must use only their designated bus stop.
2. Students need to wait at the bus stop in an orderly fashion and also be careful not to walk on the grass or damage shrub beds. Students should wait at their bus stop in a single line, 15 feet away from the roadway.
3. Parents, guardians or other authorized persons of kindergartners must accompany their child to the bus stop and meet the bus at drop off. The bus driver is instructed not to leave a kindergartner alone. We do this for your child's continued safety.
4. Most bus stops are arranged so that students are picked up on the right hand side of the road.
5. Bus stops are planned for efficiencies, it is possible that you may not be able to see your child from your home while they are waiting for their school bus. Seeing your student is not part of the criteria in placing bus stops.

Please see "Frequently Asked Questions" at www.michigan.gov.

Bus Rules

Do Not Lose Your Riding Privilege!

- Students may only ride the bus they are assigned to ride unless given specific permission to ride another bus by the building administrator.
- Observe same conduct as in the classroom.
- Be courteous, use no profane language.
- Do not eat or drink on the bus.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Cooperate with the driver.
- Do not smoke.
- Do not be destructive.
- Stay in your seat.
- Keep your head, hands and feet inside the bus.
- The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.

Items Not Allowed on the Bus

For reasons of safety and in order to comply with state law and transportation procedures, the following items, but not limited to are not allowed on a school bus:

- Glass objects; bottles, jars, etc.
- Open containers of food, drink, and at no time, peanuts or peanut butter items
- Live animals, bugs, worms
- Oversized objects and instruments; those that cannot fit safely in the seat with the student
- Weapons; guns, knives, razor blades, etc. (real or toy)
- Sports equipment which could endanger others such as javelins, pole vaults, shot puts, or skateboards
- Any item which cannot be transported easily or which creates a safety concern
- The use of electronic devices such as cell phones, and items that generate noise without the use of headphones

Items Allowed on the Bus

Items permitted must be placed in the students lap or under the bus seat. These items cannot block the aisle per Section 10 of the MVC 257.1811.

- Backpacks
- Small musical instruments such as trumpets, saxophones, flutes, clarinets, etc.

Lost Items

Articles left on buses are usually maintained on

each bus for a few days. Following this time period articles are then taken to the schools and maintained for one month.

How Parents Can Help

1. Plan with your child so that he/she arrives at the bus stop 10 minutes before the schedule time.
2. Help to encourage and provide patterns of safety for your child when going to and from the bus stop.
3. Cooperate with the school personnel in encouraging proper conduct of your child.
4. Make reasonable effort to understand and cooperate with those responsible for pupil transportation.
5. Call your child's principal regarding any questions or suggestions.

Excellence is the Expectation!