



FAQ-Frequently Asked Questions

➤ **Who is eligible to ride the bus?**

Bus service is provided consistent with Oregon Revised Statute 327.043. Elementary students who live more than 1 mile from school and secondary students who live more than 1.5 miles from school are eligible for bus service. Bus service is also be provided to students residing in a District School Board approved supplemental plan area on record with the Oregon Department of Education. Transportation service may be provided to students attending an Options Program as well. Students attending a school outside of their local attendance area due to Administrative Transfer are not eligible for bus services.

➤ **How do I sign up my child to ride the bus?**

Your child's information is automatically sent to the Transportation Department when you enroll at your school. If they are eligible for bus service (see above), they will automatically be assigned a bus route. [Click Here](#) to lookup your student's bus stop, route, and time information.

➤ **How will I be notified of my child's bus route or if there is a change in stop time or stop location?**

You will receive an email from us in late August with instructions on how to access the District computer system ([ELink](#)) to find your bus stop location, pickup and drop off times. During the school year, if any changes are made, flyers will be handed out on the bus to each student prior to the change and the school will be notified in advance of any changes.

➤ **How is my child's bus stop assigned?**

School bus stops are placed in centralized locations. Each student's home address is evaluated and the closest bus stop is assigned based upon walking distance criteria established by School Board Administrative Regulations. The guideline walk distances for elementary students is 3 blocks; middle school students is 4 blocks; high school students is 5 blocks. A block is 1/10th of a mile or 528 feet.

➤ **Can my student use any bus stop I want?**

No. District policy dictates students use their assigned bus stop only.

➤ **How can I request a new bus stop or a change to our bus stop?**

You may submit a Transportation Service Request to the Transportation Department through our website at ([Click Here](#)). If approved, it may take up to 5 days for the change to be completed. This allows time to notify all parents/guardians of any change to a student stop.

- **What time do students need to be at the bus stop?**
Students should be at their designated stop and ready to board 5 minutes prior to the scheduled stop time. Traffic and other circumstances can cause the bus to be early or late on any given day. Transportation uses the atomic clock for all routes.
- **Will my child have the same AM and PM bus stop?**
Not necessarily. Due to the smaller number of students, after-school routes are more generic in nature and are generated to serve a larger area of the District. For this reason, a student's regular route stop may be closer to their home than the corresponding after-school route stop.
- **Do I have to escort my child to/from the bus stop?**
Escorting your child to/from the bus stop is not required however, it is highly recommended for kindergarten and first grade students, especially at the beginning of the school year. It is also highly recommended for any student who may have difficulty navigating their way to/from the bus stop.
- **Can my child be transported to/from daycare instead of home?**
Your student may be transported to/from a day care provided that the day care is within your school's attendance area. This would be their designated stop every day. The request will need to be submitted at the school and could take up to 5 business days to process.
- **How are Early Release days handled?**
Early release routes are identical to regular-day, (K-12), adjusted for time.
- **If I have a concern about my child's route or driver, whom do I talk to?**
They should contact the Transportation Center at (503) 356-4200 unless they need translation services, in which case they should contact their school or the Welcome Center at (503) 356-3755.
- **Can a parent ride the bus with their child?**
Generally no. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis. Permission must be arranged in advance and approved by School and Transportation Administration.
- **How long will my child's bus ride be?**
While the District has no policy regarding maximum ride times, regular education routes serving a schools attendance area are designed to operate with travel times of 45 minutes or less when feasible. Routes serving afterschool programs, K-8 schools and options schools may exceed this travel time due to the extended geographic area served.
- **Are the buses safe?**
The National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. Department of Transportation and other authorities agree that school buses are the safest form of transportation for getting children to and from school. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, a child is 8 times safer in a school bus than when riding in a parent's vehicle. Some 475,000 school buses carry 25 million children each day, rarely with any serious accident. Safety features of school bus include: the color and size of school buses make them easily visible and identifiable; the height of school buses provides good driver visibility and raises the passenger compartment above car impact height; school bus construction includes reinforced sides to protect passengers from side impacts;

school bus lights provide distinctive warning to alert other motorists to the presence of a school bus stop; school buses are carefully designed using what is called "passive restraint", meaning all a child must do to be protected is sit down in a seat.

➤ **How much training do the drivers have?**

One of the greatest safety features of the school bus is the driver. They receive specialized training in student behavior management, loading and unloading, security and emergency medical procedures. Drivers participate in pre-employment and random drug/alcohol testing, as well as frequent driving record checks, and submit to background checks and periodic medical exams to keep their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a School Bus Endorsement. Beaverton School District drivers are required to attend an average of 8 hours of classroom in-service training each year. Most BSD drivers attend many more hours than is required.

➤ **My child will attend an Option School. How does that work with busing?**

Students enrolled in K8 Option School (Springville K8, Raleigh Hills K8, and Aloha Huber Park K8) or a SUMMA Program will receive Transportation Services between an assigned neighborhood bus stop and their school unless they reside in that school's No Transportation Zone. Students who reside in the No Transportation Zone for their school will not receive Transportation Services.

Students enrolled in Merlo Station Community High School, Arts and Communication Magnet Academy (ACMA), International School of Beaverton (ISB), Rachael Carson School of Environmental Science, Health and Science School (HS2), and School of Science and Technology (SST) will receive Transportation Services as follows:

In the Morning, students will be picked up at a neighborhood stop and shuttled to the closest "Focal Point School" (ACMA, ISB, Capital Center). If they attend a school site other than that Focal Point, they will be shuttled to the school they attend from that Focal Point.

In the Afternoon, students will travel from their school to the high school closest to their residence. Students will then ride a bus from the high school to their neighborhood bus stop. Students who reside within the high school No Transportation Zone will not receive Transportation Services from the high school.

➤ **All the buses look alike. How do I know which one my child is to ride?**

The notification you receive via the mail will include your student's bus stop location, pickup time, drop off time, and bus route number. Each BSD bus has the route number displayed next to the front door on the passenger side and under the driver's window on the driver's side with white numbers on a black background.

➤ **What happens if my child gets on the wrong bus?**

Students who board the wrong bus should notify the bus driver as soon as possible. The School will be notified, and the Bus Driver will return the student to school.

- **Is there transportation for after-school activities?**
Some elementary and middle school afterschool programs offer transportation services. Check with your school to see if services are available. After school activity buses are available for high school students. They depart at approximately 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm every day except Wednesdays. [Click here](#) to see the routes by school.
- **Why can't the driver stop at my house to pick up or drop off my child?**
Certain students, whose needs are addressed through an IEP plan, are eligible for "curbside" service. This service is typically restricted to situations where a less restrictive environment is not possible, or where medical issues require this type of service. For other students living in non-rural areas, stops are placed at centralized locations that can be safely accessed by a significant number of students to minimize the time length and mileage of the run. If you have concerns about your child's safety you are encouraged to accompany your child to the bus stop or arrange a neighborhood buddy to walk with your child.
- **I have a Special Needs child. How do I get transportation for them?**
Transportation for Special Needs students is generated through the Special Education Department. The student's IEP team will determine if transportation is a related service as part of the student's overall needs assessment. The Transportation Department will receive notification from the Special Education Department and will contact families via letter and/or phone calls with the bus stop location, pick up, and drop off times.
- **If my child gets sick at school during the day, will the bus take them home early?**
Bus service is not available during the day to transport sick students home. Families must make their own arrangements to pick up students who become ill during the school day and need to go home.
- **What do I do if my bus is late?**
School buses have to endure the same traffic conditions that plague commuters. A traffic snarl, traffic accident or a longer than scheduled loading at a previous bus stop can easily throw your bus 10-15 minutes off schedule. Please be patient and allow at least 15 minutes before calling the Dispatch Office at 503-356-4200.
- **Can a student ride to a different stop or on a different route on a one time basis?**
The Beaverton School District student must have a written note signed by the parent/guardian and school secretary/administrator. The note should be given to the driver, and the student may only ride if there is space on the bus and no additional stops would be required. A note must be provided for each occurrence.
- **Can a student bring a pet on the bus?**
Oregon Revised Statutes do not permit insects, reptiles, or animals of any type except for approved guide or assistance animals.
- **Why are students assigned to a seat?**

Seat assignments are a positive way for the ride to be consistent and safe. This aids the driver and school staff with student management. The driver has the authority to assign seats as they deem necessary.

➤ **Can a parent take their student off the bus along the route?**

Federal and State Transportation regulations only permit the students to depart the bus at their designated stop or at school. Only a district staff member may remove a student from the bus at school. This is for the safety and security of all students.

➤ **Can students bring their musical instrument or skateboard on the bus?**

Skateboards cannot be transported on the school bus. Musical instruments in a case may be transported provided there is space on the bus and the instrument can be secured by the student.

➤ **Can students carry glass, plants, balloons, or a large project on the bus?**

Glass or any object that could potentially injure students cannot be transported on the bus. Large items that cannot be safely stored on the students lap may not be transported on the bus. These objects can become very hazardous in the event of a collision.

➤ **Are there radios and cameras on the buses?**

All buses are equipped with a two-way radio. The dispatch office is in communication with buses at all times and radio transmissions are monitored by the district's Transportation staff. The district uses video surveillance systems inside buses to help monitor student activity and provide students with the safest possible ride. Video systems allow the driver to spend more time concentrating on the road and what is going on around them instead of constantly looking in the rear view mirror to see what is occurring inside the bus.

➤ **How do you know where my child's bus is at?**

All BSD buses are equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. GPS helps ensure all students are safe and on route and provides "real time" locations of all buses. A free mobile phone application is available for use to track your student's bus. [Click Here](#) for more information

➤ **How do you decide when it's too dangerous to transport students to school due to inclement weather? Who does it, and how are we notified?**

During hazardous winter weather conditions, Beaverton School District administrators drive roads to evaluate conditions in relation to bus safety and communicate with weather forecasting professionals. School closure or delayed-start decisions are typically be made and posted on the District website by 5:15 am. Families will also be notified by phone and/or text message through the School Messenger system. We encourage and support families to make attendance decisions for your child(ren) based on your own assessment of travel conditions at your location.

➤ **Will my student have the same bus stop when snow routes are used?**

Some routes and stops may be eliminated when snow routes are used. On inclement weather days, the District will provide information on any time delays and whether or not we are operating snow routes. Snow route information is posted on the BSD website on both the Public Safety and Transportation web pages.

➤ **Why aren't seat belts required in school buses?**

Seat belts are not required in school buses because research by the state Department of Transportation and others determined that compartmentalization was a better solution. Some of the key arguments favoring compartmentalization over seat belts are:

1) Compartmentalization is more manageable. The protective surfaces exist in place without depending on any action by the children or any extra special supervision by the drivers. Seat belts require discipline and supervision to keep them clean, unraveled and in use.

2) Compartmentalization works equally well for 1, 2 or 3 students per seat. Today's 39" wide standard seats may contain three small children or two large ones, or any combination in between. Arranging seat belts to properly handle any combination is difficult, if not impossible; the best known solution with seat belts is to restrict each seat to two students and two belts, which has the disadvantage of sharply reducing the carrying capacity of bus fleets.

3) Compartmentalization works whether students have fully developed abdominal areas or not. Conventional seat belts, which are lap restraints only, are not suitable for small children whose abdominal area and bone structure are not adequately developed to take the force of a lap belt alone. They need the help of chest harnesses also, which adds to the complexity of a proper seat belt solution.

4) Compartmentalization, once it has done its energy-absorbing job, leaves the student free to escape the bus. Seat belts could leave students strapped in, upside down, perhaps unconscious, in burning or flooding buses.

➤ **Do students receive training about what to do in an emergency?**

Yes. Emergency drills are an important part of providing safe pupil transportation and are conducted twice per year at all of our schools.

➤ **What happens if my child leaves a personal item on the bus?**

Call the Dispatch phone at (503) 356-4200 as soon as you know an item has been left behind. The dispatcher will attempt to contact the driver to locate the item. In most cases, your student will be able to retrieve the item the next time they ride the bus. Items of high monetary value are turned into Dispatch for safekeeping.

➤ **Will transportation be provided if we move?**

Depending on whether or not you still reside in the same school boundary, transportation may be available and new stop information will be provided within 5 days of notifying your school of your address change. If your move has placed you in the walking area for your home school, your student will no longer be eligible for bus service.