

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Can my child ride the bus home with a friend, or can a friend ride the bus home with my child?**

If they are on the same bus, please email [transportation@hvrdsd.org](mailto:transportation@hvrdsd.org) 24 hours in advance. Children are not allowed to switch buses. If the children normally take separate buses, the transportation is the responsibility of the parents.

## **My child left something on his/her regular bus. How do I check the lost and found?**

The Transportation office does not have a lost & found. Check with your child's driver the next day or call 609.737.4002 x 2804.

## **My child left some athletic gear on a bus from a sports event. How do I check the lost and found?**

Please call the transportation office at 609.737.4002 x 2804 or email [transportation@hvrdsd.org](mailto:transportation@hvrdsd.org).

## **What is the rule for allowing students to be dropped off without a parent present?**

A parent/guardian of Pre-k, kindergarten and first grade students must be present in order for the student to be dropped off.

## **Where will my child's bus stop be? What time will it stop?**

Bus pass information for the 2022-23 school year will be available

## **If my child's bus does not arrive on time in the morning, what should I do?**

Please call 609.737.4002 x 2804 to speak with transportation. Under most circumstances, we can radio the driver to determine their location.

## **If my child misses their bus, what should I do?**

Students should be at their bus locations 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up times. Parents are responsible for transporting children who have missed the bus.

## **What time will my child's bus come when there is a delayed opening?**

Delayed opening is 90 minutes later than the regularly scheduled school time. Buses will pick up students at their regularly assigned stop 90 minutes later than the normal time.

## **We have moved. How do I get my child assigned to a new bus?**

Be sure to update your address with the registrar, **before Aug. 25**, to ensure there is no interruption to bus service. [registrar@hvrdsd.org](mailto:registrar@hvrdsd.org)

## **How do I share a concern, complaint, question or compliment regarding a bus, a bus driver, or children on the bus?**

Please call the transportation office at 609.737.4002 x 2804 or email [transportation@hvrdsd.org](mailto:transportation@hvrdsd.org).

**Who can I contact about discipline issues on my child's bus?**

Please call transportation at 609.737.4002 x 2804 or email [transportation@hvrdsd.org](mailto:transportation@hvrdsd.org) and provide the principal of your child's school with the same information.

**Who must be transported?**

In accordance with state law, N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1, all public elementary school students (grades K-8) who live more than two miles from their school and all public secondary school students (grades 9-12) who live more than two-and-a-half miles from their school are entitled to transportation. These students are said to live "remote from school." Whenever a school district is required to provide transportation to students attending regular public school programs, students attending nonpublic schools who meet those distance requirements may also be entitled to transportation services. In addition, any student classified with special needs who either meets these distance requirements or for whom transportation is required in the student's Individual Education Plan must be transported

**How is the distance between a student's home and school measured?**

Measurement is made by the shortest distance along public roadways or walkways between the entrance to the student's home and the nearest public entrance of the school building. This measurement is for eligibility purposes only and is not necessarily the travel path to or from school.

**Who is responsible for safe travel along public roadways or walkways?**

Case law has long held that safety along public roadways and walkways is a municipal responsibility. It is for this reason that municipalities install sidewalks, traffic signals and signs, and paint crosswalks. Pursuant to section 40A:9-154.1 of New Jersey statute, school crossing guards are appointed by the municipality and are under the supervision of the chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer.

**What is being done to ensure that students are safely transported to and from school?**

School buses are inspected at least twice each year by special school bus inspection teams from the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission.

School bus drivers are required to hold a commercial driver's license (CDL) with a passenger endorsement, and, therefore, are also required to meet federal standards for alcohol and drug testing. The standards include testing upon initial employment followed by random tests. In addition, school bus drivers must undergo a physical examination every two years, a criminal background check upon initial employment and at the time of renewal of their CDL, and submit an annual driver's abstract (i.e., a history of motor vehicle violations).

The last date to make bus changes, and have them be effective for the first day of school, **Friday, Aug. 26**. Requests received after this date can have up to a three week delay. Remember, alternate transportation requests **do not carry over** from year to year. Students are entitled to **one seat**, on **one bus**, morning and afternoon.

***Tips if you have questions on the first day of school:***

*\*Bus pass information for the 2022-23 school year will be available **after 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, 2022**. Please print your child's bus pass, and have them carry it in their backpack.*

*\***Be patient while waiting!** We know you are excited! However, fluctuations in schedules do happen, due to road conditions, detours, accidents, traffic volume..... If your child has waited **longer than 10 minutes and the scheduled pickup time has passed**; call our office to check for an update on the location of the vehicle. Do not call the office if it has been **less than 10 minutes**. Calling too soon ties up the phone lines unnecessarily. Also, if you are calling from a group bus stop location, designate one person to be the caller. If the whole group calls at the same time, we aren't able to help answer your questions efficiently!*

*\*Children will be assigned a permanent seat within the first two weeks of school. They must sit in the same seat every day.*

*\*District and contracted buses will be cleaned, at a minimum, once a day, to ensure safety for all riders.*

*\*If you don't plan on having your child ride the bus, and instead wish to transport on your own, please notify the transportation dept. We will make note of the information in your child's record. When you wish to resume transportation, just give us a call, (and three days' notice) and we will reinstate your child on the bus.*