

Windham Public Schools Transportation FAQs

- **Who is eligible for bus transportation in Windham?** All Windham resident children are entitled to bus transportation from the designated bus stop near their homes to their neighborhood school, in accordance with the walking distances established in the new Transportation Policy by the Windham Public Schools Board of Education. Walking distances are summarized in the chart below, with exceptions made for hazardous road conditions as defined by Connecticut State law. If a student chooses another school outside of his or her home district, transportation will be provided to that school from a designated pick-up area; it will be the parent or guardian's responsibility to provide transportation of the student to and from that designated pick-up area.

Grade	Walking Distance to School
Preschool and Kindergarten located in the Kramer building	All bused
Preschool at Sweeney and Windham Center	1/2 mile
Grades K - 5	1/2 mile
Grades 6 - 8	1 mile
Grades 9 - 12	1 1/2 mile

- **Who will walk to school?** In general, students living within a 0.5-mile walking distance from the elementary schools, a 1-mile walking distance from the middle school, or a 1.5-mile walking distance from the high school will be required to walk to school or provide their own transportation. Students will not be required to walk if the roads are deemed hazardous according to Connecticut State law. Please refer to the listing of residence addresses that are not eligible for bus transportation on the transportation webpage.
- **How will I know if my child has been assigned for bus transportation?** Please refer to the Windham Public Schools transportation webpage for a listing of school-specific residence addresses, and their eligibility for bus transportation. The Chronicle and The Broadcaster will print bus stops two weeks before the start of school.
- **Is the route number on the bus?** The route number will be posted on each bus.
- **I have questions about my child's transportation assignment. What do I do?** Parent questions about routes, schedules, and stops should be discussed with the Windham Public Schools Transportation Coordinator. Please contact 860.465.2520 or send an email.
- **Why do you transport students to Norwich Tech but not NFA?** By law, a school district is required to provide transportation to a vocational-technical school located outside the district for any student who lives in the district, is under age 21, and has not graduated from high school. The law allows, but does not require, towns to provide

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transportation to private, nonprofit schools, such as NFA, outside the district, but within the state. However, the state does not reimburse towns for providing this transportation unless the town does not maintain a high school of its own.

- **This is my child's first year to ride on a school bus. What can I do to help him/her prepare for this new experience?** Make sure your child knows his/her bus number, where to get off, home address, and phone number. Make sure your child understands bus safety rules and expected behavior. Make sure your child arrives at the designated bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- **What happens if I fail to meet the bus?** The parent will be responsible to transport the child to school.
- **What is the procedure when I need to have a different person meet my child at the bus stop?** All pre-school and kindergarten students shall be picked up and returned to their designated bus stop with an authorized person present. If an authorized person is not present, the driver shall take the student back to his or her school where parents will pick up the child. Bus drivers will also return students to their schools if the person present is unfamiliar or unidentified. To authorize an individual to pick up your child from the bus stop, call your school secretary, and she or he will notify the bus company.
- **What if my child needs to ride a different bus in the afternoon than their regular one, to get to a location outside their home school district?** No child in regular education classes will be transported by bus out of their home school attendance zone under any circumstances.
- **I have moved and need to adjust my child's transportation assignment. What do I do?** Please contact your school secretary for an address change. She or he will forward the change to the bus company.
- **I think WPS made a mistake to my student's transportation assignment. What do I do?** Please contact the Transportation Coordinator at 860.465.2520 or send an email.
- **Does Windham Public Schools offer special services for students with disabilities?** Transportation for Special Education students, as well as students eligible for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, shall be determined on an individual basis by the Pupil Services department of Windham Public Schools.

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- **My student has a temporary disability and needs bus transportation or assistance boarding the bus. What do I do?** Students who need assistance boarding a school bus due to a temporary disability (such as a cast, use of crutches, or a wheel chair) may receive special transportation upon recommendation of the school nurse, and with a Doctor's note. Parents should notify the Transportation Office at 860.465.2520 as soon as possible for such temporary assistance.
- **What should I do if the bus is more than 30 minutes late on the return trip home?** Please contact the Transportation Coordinator at 860.465.2520.
- **Are there delays during inclement weather?** Under certain circumstances, it will be necessary to close or delay the opening of the Windham Public Schools for a period of time because of inclement weather. Bus schedules will be adjusted to these delays. (For example, if there is a 90-minute delay in the opening of schools, buses will run 90 minutes later than the original pick-up time.)
- **How can I find out if school is closed, delayed, or has an early dismissal because of bad weather, emergencies or other conditions?** Closing and late opening announcements are broadcast on the following stations:

Television Stations
WFSB Channel 3
NBC 30
News Channel 8
Fox 61 News
Channel 14 (in the Charter Communications Cable area)
Radio Stations
WILI (AM/FM)
WTIC (AM)
WICH
WCTY

- **My child's bus arrives later/earlier than I want. Can the time be changed?** No, the time cannot be changed. Bus routes are established so that every resident student

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entitled to transportation services arrives to school on time in the most efficient manner.

- **My child missed the bus. Can the bus come back to the bus stop?** Buses cannot return for students who missed the bus. Please be sure your child arrives at the designated bus stop at least 10 minutes ahead of schedule.
- **Does the bus driver assign seats on the bus?** The bus driver has the authority to assign students to specific seats if needed or desirable in the interest of minimizing distractions and ensuring overall safety
- **Who should I speak to about behavior problems that occurred on my child's bus?** Parents should contact the school's principal.
- **What are the consequences of a student misbehavior on the bus?**
 - First Offense: The student shall be spoken to by the Principal, and the parents shall be notified, with any exceptions only at the Principal's discretion.
 - Second Offense: The student shall be spoken to by the Principal, and a written warning citing relevant rules and regulations will be sent home.
 - Third Offense: The student's bus privileges shall be suspended.
 - Fourth Offense: The student may be expelled from bus privileges for the remainder of the year with the approval of the Superintendent, if necessary to maintain the safety and well-being of students or the bus driver.
- **Can a family member or other adult board a school bus at the bus stop or at school?** It is illegal for any unauthorized individual to stop or board a school bus. Please do not attempt to board a school bus along the route or at school.
- **I think my child's bus is overcrowded. How many children can ride a full-sized school bus?** Large school buses are designed to carry 74 elementary students with three children per seat, and 52 middle and high school students with two students per seat.
- **Can students bring musical instruments or large objects with them on the bus?** Musical Instruments and large objects are permitted on the school bus as long as the student can carry the instrument or object on and off of the bus by him/herself. The instruments must be placed in the student's lap or stored between the student's legs and the barrier in front of the student. Instruments or large objects cannot block the

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aisle. Large instruments such as drum kits, cellos, and basses are too large to be transported on school buses safely.

- **How do I locate a lost item on a school bus?** Please contact the Transportation Coordinator at 860.465.2520 to locate lost items.
- **I am interested in becoming a school bus driver. How can I apply?** Thank you for your interest in becoming a school bus driver. Please contact the Transportation Coordinator for more information.