Bernalillo Public Schools

Guide to Riding the Bus

Riding the school bus is the safest and most convenient way for your children to get to and from school each day. A study done by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows Students that ride the bus are nearly eight times safer than with their own parents and Guardians in cars. To ensure bus rider safety on and around the school bus, student Riders and their families must understand their role when using the school bus. Included on this sheet are tips and answers to questions that will help families prepare a child for riding the bus.

***As a parent/guardian you can help prepare your child to ride the bus by doing these important things.***

* Walk the path from your house to the school bus stop prior to the start of school. This will help familiarize your child with their daily route to the bus stop. Also if possible walk your child to the bus stop the first couple of days of school.
* Pick a landmark that will help your child recognize their stop. A stop may look different from the bus so pick a house, tree or a street sign that is familiar/ recognizable. Ask the child to remember the land mark so they know when it is time to get off.
* Help your child learn their bus stop, bus number, and pick up time. All of this information will be given to you at the time of registration. Place this information on the refrigerator or in a place that is visible so that you can review it with your child.
* Read the Bernalillo Public School’s Parent/Student Transportation Handbook.
* As a parent/gaurdian, you should not board a bus under any circumstance. It is illegal for Parents or Guardians to board a school bus unless they have prior authorization by the Transportation Director.
* If you have any concerns of bullying or misbehavior contact the Transportation Department or have your child inform their Principal or Teacher. Bullying or misbehavior is not tolerated and is taken seriously by Bernalillo Public Schools.

***Frequently asked questions***

***Q.******What do I need to do to sign my child up for transportation to school?***

***A.*** *First verify that you live outside the walking distance for your home school. Next you must sign up for transportation this can be during your schools registration or by going to the transportation office at 224 N. Camino Del Pueblo. The office hours are 7 am to 5pm during school and 7 am to 4 pm during the summer.*

***Q: I filled out a Transportation registration form last year why do I need to fill another one out this year?***

***A:*** *It is important that every school year students that are going to ride the bus reregister. It helps with estimating student counts for routes allowing the department to plan stops based on student’s density. It is also very important the Bus Drivers have the most current contact information on every student on their bus to ensure parents or guardians can be reached in the event of an emergency.*

***Q****.* ***Does someone need to be present at my child’s bus stop?***

***A.*** *An authorized adult needs to be present to receive a pre-k or kindergarten student every day. In the event no one is present at the stop your child will be returned to their home school.*

*Q.* ***What should I do if my child’s bus is running late?***

***A.*** *We want to establish constant pick up and drop off times but there will be times when a bus will be late due to multiple variables. If ten minutes passes call the transportation department to see where the bus is. In the morning ensure your child stays at the bus stop until it arrives. The bus stop is the safest place for your child.*

*Q:* ***Why is my bus stop time different from last year?***

*A: There are my variables that go in to bus stop times. The main ones being traffic and student density. If there are more students, the longer it may take to load at a specific stop. Also from year to year routes change based on area growth and population. Each of the two factors can either cause a stop to be added or removed. If housing is added to an area where it did not exist or if students for a certain area move to other areas. Every year, prior to the start of schools, stops are reviewed and evaluated. On occasion there maybe the late registration of students that live in areas that stops do not exist causing a new stop to be routed during the first two weeks of school****. After the first 5 to 10 days of school, bus stop times should normalize as most of the variables have been assessed, but always remember to give the bus driver a 5 minutes variance every day.***

***Q. What time does my child’s bus arrive in the PM?***

***A.*** *PM Route times are generally not provided to parents due to the amount of variables that can occur on the way home. Our buses generally leave the schools 7 minutes after dismissal. Depending on your distance from the school, you should be at your child’s stop 1- to 15 minutes after dismissal.*

***Q.*** ***Does my Childs bus stop or pickup time ever change?***

***A.*** Stops are constantly being monitored and from time to time bus stop is changed for safety or student density reasons.

***Q:******What if I want my child dropped off at/by their daycare provider or an alternative stop on specific days, what do I do?***

***A:*** *A change of drop off form needs to be filled out and approved by the Transportation Dept. The form can be found on the Transportation page of the Bernalillo Public Schools website or you may pick it up at the Transportation Office.*

***Q: Why is my Childs stop at a central location and not in front of my house?***

***A:*** *Door to Door stops are for Pre-k students and Special Needs children. All other stops are placed at central locations that meet NMPEDS standards for transportation. This allows the buses to pick up students safely and efficiently.*

***Q:******Where can I find information on Routes, Polices and Transportation forms?***

***A:*** *All of the information about routes and bus stops can be found on the Transportation home page of the Bernalillo Public Schools website. Also questions or concerns can be sent via email to* ***transportaionhelp@bps.k12.us***