

James A. Garfield Local Schools

Transportation Plan

Goals

1. Transport all eligible students to and from their schools and events safely.
2. Communicate clearly with all stakeholders.
3. Maintain a safe, working fleet of vehicles of which our community can be proud.

Bus Safety

Bus safety is an important component of the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school and events. The following are the foundations of JAG Bus Safety.

Point of Safety

A point of safety is a designated spot in which students stand when loading or unloading a bus. The point of safety is determined by the bus driver and is the designated spot in which the driver can safely see students at that particular stop. The driver will communicate each point of safety with the impacted students.

Bus Rules

Bus rules for all students being transported will be as follows while on a school bus:

1. Keep your seat on the seat.
2. Keep your feet on the floor.
3. Keep your back on the back of the seat.
4. Talk quietly while on the bus.

Preschool & Kindergarten Students (dropping to someone at home)

Students in preschool and kindergarten will not be dropped off to an empty home. If a driver does not have visual confirmation of a designated caregiver being at the drop off location, the driver will contact the bus garage for assistance in making contact with the guardians and will keep the student on the bus.

Field Trips

Experiences outside the classroom enhance the learning experience for students. Transportation off campus to field trips utilizes the same bus rules.

Routes

All eligible students are transported to their school buildings using contracted services, district-owned vehicles (i.e. buses or vans) or payment-in-lieu contracts. The district utilizes a combination of door to door and group pickups to transport students to and from their schools.

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Bus routes are created by the transportation department to create the safest and most efficient routes to and from school for students. Transportation routes are made in consultation with drivers and approved at the August Board of Education Meeting (second Thursday of August).

Bus routes are communicated to families two weeks prior to the first day of school. Transportation routes are communicated in letter form and mailed to families of elementary students. Transportation routes for the middle/high school are posted on the district website and published in the local newspaper.

While routes are created and approved in August each year, long-term changes to routes occur frequently because of late (After July 1) registration, road closures, driver shortages or other circumstances. When a route is changed the transportation secretary will communicate to the impacted families via phone and the driver will share a written communication via the students at least 24 hours in advance.

Bus Variations

A Bus Variation allows a student to regularly be transported to or from an address different from their residence. Bus Variation forms can be found on the district website or in the school office.

Bus Variation forms are reviewed by the transportation department, and when possible are approved by the transportation supervisor. Bus variations are not guaranteed and will be granted when there is room on the bus and the variation does not cause a significant disruption to the safe and efficient transportation of students.

Calamity Days

Calamity days occur when weather conditions, road conditions or building conditions do not allow for schools to be open for instruction. All efforts are made to make this determination prior to 6:00 a.m. The district utilizes our mass communication tools (text, phone call, social media and website) to communicate calamity days.

During a calamity day, the conditions are reassessed mid-day and a determination is made to reschedule, play or cancel any practices, field trips or sporting events.

During a calamity day no Garfield students will be transported to other schools unless the calamity day is a result of an event that does not impact driving conditions.

Maplewood

Maplewood Career Center is the partner career center for JAG. Door to door transportation is available to all students attending Maplewood. When Maplewood is in

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session and JAG is not, group stops are utilized. Pickup occurs at the Community House at Nelson Circle, James A. Garfield High School and the Freedom Church.

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs are transported in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. The district utilizes vans, contracted services, school buses and payment in lieu as avenues to transport. Determination of transportation is determined in consultation with the family of each student, special services and our transportation department.

Walkers/Bikers

Because of our proximity to many neighborhoods and the availability of safe passage (sidewalks, crosswalks, etc) many of our students (approximately 10%) choose to walk or ride a bicycle to and from school. Students are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for weather conditions when walking to and from school and obey all school rules from portal to portal.

If a student's primary mode of transport to and from school is walking or riding a bike they may always gain access to a bus ride if needed. Parents should call the bus garage and request transportation to receive estimated arrival times.

The District realizes that certain areas (Liberty Street, SR 88 South of the school) do not currently have safe passage. We are working to seek grant funding with the Village of Garrettsville to improve these areas.

Impracticability of Transportation

In certain instances transportation of students may be deemed impractical. The District will declare transportation to and from certain schools impractical and will cite the reasons for impracticality at the July Board of Education Meeting in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3327.02.

Reasons for impracticality:

1. Time and distance required
2. Number of pupils transported
3. Cost of providing transportation (Equipment, Maintenance, Personnel, Administration)
4. Similar or equivalent transportation services provided to other eligible pupils
5. Extent of disruption to current transportation schedules
6. Whether other reimbursable types of transport are available

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Once transportation is declared impractical, payment in lieu of transportation may be offered to impacted students. Students enrolling at JAG after July 1 may also be offered payment in lieu after the transportation department conducts their necessary evaluation.

Payment in lieu contract amounts are determined by the State. Contracts are mailed to the impacted families for consideration, and once a signed contract is executed, the payment is made at the end of a school year to the family.

Community & Nonpublic Schools

The JAG transportation secretary will request, in writing, from each community/nonpublic school their daily schedule (start time/end time) and school calendar. This request shall be made before the last day of February. In accordance with ORC, impacted community/nonpublic schools shall provide this information to JAG no later than April 1 of each year. Within 60 days of receiving schedules the transportation department will make appropriate adjustments to this transportation plan. The JAG transportation department will communicate with any community/nonpublic school as needed.

Changes

This plan shall be adopted by the Board of Education in consultation with special services, partner schools, charter and nonpublic schools. The plan will be formally adopted by the JAG Board of Education at the July Board Meeting. Changes to the plan may be made as calendars, student needs and staffing levels change.

Current Partnerships

At the adoption of this plan, partner schools include:

School	Address	Contact
Maplewood Career Center	7075 OH-88 Ravenna, OH 44266	330-296-2892
Champion High School	5976 Mahoning Ave NW Warren, OH 44483	330-847-2300
LEAP	200 N Mantua St Kent, OH 44240	330-676-8674
Education Alternatives	310 Bennett Ave Ravenna, OH 44266	330-839-9966
Bio-Med Science Academy	4211 State Route 44	330-235-9441

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7-12	Rootstown, OH 44272	
Bio-Med Shalersville K-4	4519 OH-303 Ravenna, OH 44266	330-235-9441
Bio-Med Ravenna 5-6	653 Enterprise Parkway Ravenna, Ohio 44266	330-325-6186

