

Lawrence Public Schools Transportation FAQ



The Transportation Office works to provide students with safe and efficient transportation services.

*In an EMERGENCY call:
Your School Transportation Coordinator
Transportation Office (516) 295-7065*

This Q & A was developed to answer some of the most frequent questions parents ask about transportation services:

Who do I call if I have a question or problem?

Each school has a designated transportation coordinator. The coordinator and the Lawrence Transportation Office are in constant communication. Parents should contact their own School Transportation Coordinator who will address any questions or issues concerning transportation services. If a matter requires immediate attention after school hours, parents should contact the District Office at (516) 295-7065. There is 24 hour phone coverage for all emergency transportation issues. Please have the following information handy when you call: bus number, bus company, time and location.

How are the locations of the bus stops determined?

Bus routes are developed with the aid of a computerized routing program and are reviewed by the Transportation Office, the bus company, and the local school coordinator. Routing buses in this manner is operationally efficient and cost effective. When selecting bus stops, the District takes into consideration many factors including age and student's special needs.

Why can't the bus stop be in front of or closer to my house?

House stops are provided for younger students. Centralized locations that can be accessed by a number of students to minimize the length of time and mileage of the bus run. The law permits centralized bus stops set at a distance from a student's home that is equal to walking distances to school. The school district attempts to set stops that are both convenient and reasonable.

How come my pick up time has changed from last year? How come my stop has changed?

Each year there are different students on the bus.

How early can my child be dropped off at school?

The district attempts to drop off students at school at the time the school requests. By law, students can be dropped off at least 20 minutes before school. This is done to accommodate subsequent runs.

Is it First On—First Off when it comes to pick up and drop off?

The school district understands the challenge of a bus run for children early in the morning and at the end of a long school day. However, routes are prepared based on many factors including time and efficiency.

Can a child have two stops due to a divorce?

The children of divorce face many challenges, however the law allows a student to have a single residence for transportation purposes.

Given the distance from our home to the school, why does my child's bus ride seem longer than I would anticipate?

School bus trips are a mode of public transportation. Trips are not simply point A to point B. Additionally, not all students are waiting for the bus as it arrives, some children require assistance boarding the bus, at times parents or caregivers engage the driver in private conversations and of course traffic patterns contribute to the length of the run.

I missed the April 1st deadline, can I still receive transportation?

Under many circumstances the answer is yes. All requests received after April 1st are considered late and are reviewed according to state law and when permitted transportation is granted.

May a parent submit a request for a bus stop change?

Of course. Requests for bus stop location changes should be made in writing using a Request for Change of Bus Stop form found on the Lawrence website under Important Documents. Upon review, the requestor will be notified if a bus stop change will be made.

How is a request for a bus stop change considered?

A child's safety is the primary consideration. Each request for a bus stop change must be considered in the context of the entire run.

Who is responsible for my child at the bus stop?

It is the responsibility of parents to see that their child gets to and from the bus stop. Students should be at the bus stop at least ten minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time. Parents are also responsible for the supervision of their children while waiting for the bus.

How come my pick up time is different than the bus card time?

There are two main reasons:

1. The buses are looped so that it can complete runs and the pickup times are adjusted accordingly.
2. The times listed are approximate and oftentimes other variables come into consideration including traffic. Only when the runs are performed regularly can the changes be determined.

Who is responsible for my child while riding on the bus?

Bus drivers (and Bus Attendants if assigned to a bus) are responsible for maintaining appropriate behavior while students are riding on the bus. A student who misbehaves or disrupts others while on the school bus will be warned by the bus driver and asked to correct his or her behavior. Bus drivers are instructed to submit written reports of misbehavior to both the bus company and the Transportation Office. Reports are then forwarded to the school principal and the transportation coordinator, as he or she is responsible for the discipline of students regarding incidents that occur on the school bus.

My child is being bullied on the bus, who should I contact?

You should contact your school's transportation supervisor, who will direct the issue accordingly. (see list in General Information Packet)

Is there a maximum amount of time a child can be on the bus?

There are many factors which determine the length of the bus route. The law places no limits on the length of a run.

Is there late start bussing during inclement weather?

The district transports students for regular arrival and dismissal times. Times other than regular arrival and dismissal times will be accommodated when possible.

Must a request for transportation to a non-public school be filed every year?

Yes. In accordance with New York State Education Law, requests for transportation to a non-public school **must be filed by April 1st** (or the following Monday if April 1st falls on a weekend) prior to the school year for which transportation is requested. Families moving into the school district after April 1st must file a request within 30 days of moving into the district.

What are the distance limitations that determine transportation eligibility?

As approved by a vote of the community, the school district provides transportation on a more liberal basis than required by New York State law.

The following are the minimum distances from home to school in order to be eligible for transportation:

Pre K & K	House Stop
1st-5th grades	.5 mile
6-8th grades	1 mile
9-12th grades	1.25 miles

For residents attending non-public schools, transportation will be provided up to a distance of 15 miles.

