

Two Week Disclaimer

During the first two weeks of school, route times are not consistent because students are not familiar with the loading and unloading procedures and several programs that effect route times are not operating. We ask for patience while everyone becomes familiar with the routes. They should settle out by the end of week three.

Kindergartner Drop-off

First and foremost, if any child (any age) tells a bus driver they feel unsafe, we will keep them on the bus and return them to the school at the end of the route.

Kindergartners will not be let off the bus at an individual stop without written parental permission.

Kindergartners will be released at a group stop when there are other kids exiting the bus. If a kindergartner is scheduled for a group stop, but there are no other students getting off the bus at that stop on a particular day, we will not let the kindergartner off (unless the parent has given prior written permission). We will return them to school at the end of the route.

Unlike the morning, afternoon routes may run early. The driver will evaluate the conditions at the stop when they arrive to determine if they should let your student off the bus.

If a parent prefers we let their child off the bus regardless of who is (or is not) at the stop, we would need a note authorizing it. One note for the entire school year is sufficient. Even with this note, we would keep a child on the bus if they told us they did not feel safe.

Pre-K / Kindergarten Seating

Kindergartners are required to sit at the front of the bus. Older siblings on the same route may join them at the front, but the younger student may not move back. For Pre-K students, older siblings will not be able to share the same seat because smaller students must sit in special seats designed for their size.

“Going Home with a friend” (changes shorter than a week)

If a student wants to ride a different bus for a short duration, they need to provide the bus driver they’re riding with a note signed by the visiting student’s parent or school staff indicating the route and stop location where the student should exit the bus. Students should bring a note each day (copies of one note are fine) in case drivers change.

Boys and Girls Club Buses

By BGC request, students may ride to the BGC only if they are members. Unlike other student stops, the BGC may not be used as a courtesy stop. Any student boarding a bus for the BGC must have a BGC pass to board and get off the bus at the BGC.

Courtesy Transfers (changes longer than a week)

Routes are assigned based on the address where a family resides in the District and cannot be changed. Some families prefer to use a different stop or route for an extended period of time. In these cases, they should contact Transportation. Transportation will allow eligible students to use routes and stops other than the one assigned so long as all the following conditions are met:

1. Space must be available on the regular bus route without displacing eligible school bus riders or overcrowding the bus;
2. Courtesy transportation will be honored only at existing stops for eligible school bus riders;
3. The district reserves the right to revoke the courtesy transportation for any reason.

If the request meets the conditions described above, Transportation will inform the family and the family can provide the route bus driver they’re riding with a signed note permitting their student to ride. The note should include the student’s name, the preferred route, the stop location of the destination, and the period the authorization is effective (e.g. the 2016/17 school year).

Transportation stores the authorizations on file, but we occasionally have substitute drivers who may be unaware of the change. Additionally, the student’s assigned route will not be changed, so we ask parents to use the courtesy transfer route number when contacting Transportation with questions. We ask for patience from families electing to use courtesy transfers because we do not have the same level of visibility on courtesy transfer students as we do with students riding their assigned routes.

Note: These guidelines apply to general education routes only. Special needs student families should contact the Transportation Department with questions.