

The Fayette County School System offers transportation for eligible students enrolled in a Fayette County school.

**STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION:**

School bus transportation will be provided for students who live more than one-half (1/2) mile from their school of attendance and who do not live in non-transport zones.

Any exception to the one-half (1/2) mile eligibility (non-transport zones) for students shall be based on the existence of hazardous conditions. The existence of such conditions shall be determined by the Transportation Department.

The minimum distances are measured, at the discretion of the Fayette County Department of Transportation (Transportation), based on the following: Travel distance made along the commonly traveled road(s) from the nearest entrance of the school of attendance to the driveway curb at the student's residence or the primary entrance curb of multi-family residential complexes.

Students and their parents/guardians are reminded that riding the bus is a service that may be withdrawn under certain circumstances; such as student misbehavior. The Transportation Supervisors establish bus routes and bus stops and resolve problems that arise in routing and operation of buses.

**Routes/Bus Stops:**

- ❑ All routes and bus stops will be defined by Transportation.
- ❑ Buses shall be routed as uniformly as practical, planned and operated with minimum bus mileage, avoid traveling empty and making excessive bus stops, and designed without excess spur routes. Every effort shall be made to avoid routing buses across railroads and expressways unless the crossings are protected by proper traffic signals.
- ❑ Every effort will be made to keep bus stops on main arterial roads in subdivisions. Students living in subdivisions or multi-family complexes less than one-half (1/2) mile deep will be picked up at the main entrance of the subdivision or multi-family complex.
- ❑ School bus stops shall not be closer than one-tenth mile unless deemed necessary by the transportation supervisor.
- ❑ It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the safety of students when going to, coming from, and at the bus stop.
- ❑ Students should be at their assigned bus stop no less than five (5) minutes before the established pick-up time. Students should be ready to board the bus when it arrives.

**Students With Special Permission:**

Parents/Guardians of students approved to attend another school outside their home school attendance zone are responsible for their student's transportation.

**Bus Passes:**

- ❑ Transportation may be provided for the purpose of child care or for a family emergency. Transportation for group gatherings such as meetings, parties, extracurricular activities will not be approved.
- ❑ Requests for childcare/family emergency changes in transportation should be submitted in writing to the local school principal (or his/her designee) in a timely manner. The request must state the student's name, the bus number and stop information, parent/guardian's phone number, and parent/guardian's signature.
- ❑ School personnel will complete a bus pass, and require the student to present the pass to the bus driver prior to boarding the bus.
- ❑ Approval is contingent on:
  - a. The bus pass is signed by a local school administrator;
  - b. Confirmation that seating is available and will not overcrowd the bus; and
  - c. The student having no prior disciplinary action taken regarding behavior on a bus.

All students should ride their assigned buses unless a requested change is approved by the Principal or designee and/or Transportation.

**Day Care Centers:**

- ❑ Transportation between the daycare center and the school is the responsibility of the daycare center or parent/guardian.

**Monitoring, Electronic:****Global Position System (GPS) Technology:**

- ❑ Buses are equipped with GPS technology for increased safety and security. These devices report bus location and time.

**Video:**

- ❑ Students, staff, and motorists outside the bus are subject to being videoed.

**Musical Instruments/Personal Belongings:**

- ❑ Students may transport musical instruments on the bus if space is available as determined by Transportation.
- ❑ All carry-on items such as band instruments, book bags and projects must be small enough to be held in the student's lap. The student must be able to board the bus with the item safely and without assistance.
- ❑ Books, lunch boxes, musical instruments or other items should not be placed in the aisle of the bus or in front of the emergency door.
- ❑ The following band instruments are deemed too large to transport safely on the bus: Cello, Kettle Drum, String Bass, Tuba, Bass Drum, Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Bass, Sousaphone, Field Drum (10x14 or larger), Baritone Horn, Guitar, Contrabass Clarinet, Concert Xylophone, (Other than the COMPACT Vibraharp LeBlanc #340), Large Trombone Cases, Bass Clarinet, Mellophone, Concert Snare Drum, French Horn Outfits, Tenor Saxophone, Drums up to 6 ½ x14.

**Unauthorized Riders:**

Unauthorized persons are not permitted to ride District school buses.

**Special Education:**

- ❑ Special Education transportation will be provided to one specific address every day for eligible special education students for whom transportation has been identified as a related service necessary to enable the student to receive the educational services outlined in the student's individualized education program, (IEP) These pre-scheduled routes should not be altered except for:
  - (1) Permanent changes authorized by Transportation; or
  - (2) Emergencies as determined by the Principal or designee and Transportation.

Routing designs shall be as uniform and practical as possible with consideration given to efficiency and necessary services required by the special needs student. The routing of school buses shall be planned and operated with minimum bus mileage, utilizing when possible, multisystem student assignments for buses servicing state schools.

**DISRUPTION/INTERFERENCE:**

It is unlawful for any person to knowingly, intentionally or recklessly disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public school bus stop. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1181)