

Four-Year-Old Preschool Bus Transportation FAQs 2020-2021

NEW 2020-2021: Preschool sites located in elementary buildings (not Dakota Valley Learning Center) will offer and provide bus transportation if child's home or daycare is in the preschool site's attendance area, as well as parent pick-up and drop-off. All preschoolers are offered a bus stop (if their home or daycare is in the site's attendance area). There are NO non-busing zones (walkers) for preschool children. Older siblings in K-5 whose school indicates they are in a non-busing zone; the family would have to pay a yearly fee to ride with their preschool sibling. Find further Fee-for-Service information at: <https://www.district196.org/services/transportation/fee-for-service>

Adult at bus stop: No preschool child can wait at a bus stop without an adult or older sibling with them, or be dropped off at a bus stop without a known adult meeting them, unless they get off the bus with an older sibling. In the event that no adult/sibling is at the stop for the child, the parent will be contacted via phone and the child may be returned to their school.

Bus and bus stop notification: Parents receive a postcard before school starts in late August, showing bus stop locations, bus numbers and pick-up and drop-off times.

Bus Chaperones: Bus going home from AM preschool or coming to PM preschool will have bus chaperones on each bus, if there are routinely 8 or more children assigned to each specific bus route.

Under what conditions is consideration given to adjusting bus stop locations? Roads and streets sometimes intersect on areas of road that cause concern for school bus transportation and the motoring public. We make every effort to select safe places to load and unload students given the varying factors of roads, streets, traffic speed and locations of residences. Adjustments to bus stops may be made when we believe a safer alternative is available. See school board policy [Administrative Regulation 707.2AR, School Bus Safety](#)

We live on a cul-de-sac. Will the bus come down our street? Except to transport special education students, buses generally are not routed down cul-de-sacs because of the danger to small children and property caused by the bus turning around and/or backing up in a small area. However, elementary school buses are routed down cul-de-sacs that are one mile long or longer, and middle school and high school buses are routed down cul-de-sacs that are one and one-half mile or longer.

I cannot see the bus stop from my house. The school district provides transportation for over 22,000 students to and from school each day. We are not able to position bus stops so that all parents are able to see the stop from their home.

I own a daycare and need the stop at my house because the state requires me to see the students at all times. Why can't the bus stop be located at my house? Bus stops are centrally located and at intersections. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the daycare provider to get the students to the bus stop.

I have young children at home and/or I leave home because of work. In order to be consistent and fair in placement of bus stops, the school district is not able to establish stops based on personal circumstances.

What if my child occasionally needs to be dropped off at a different stop? Students may be picked up or dropped off at a destination other than their normal bus stop only when requested in writing by the student's parent or guardian and signed by the school principal. The written request must be approved by the principal and given to the bus driver each time a different pick-up or drop-off point is desired.

Will my preschooler sit in the front seats? Yes, bus drivers support preschoolers being in the front seats of buses, unless there is an older sibling on the bus and the parent gives approval for the child to sit with an older sibling.

Seatbelts/car seats: The State of Minnesota does not mandate seat belts or car seats on school buses.

Bus Transportation changes: All bus changes or updates must be done through the building secretary at your child's preschool location. Contact the building secretary to discuss any changes needed and they will contact the Transportation department. Transportation changes can take 1-2 weeks to take effect.

How can I help my child have a successful bus ride to/from school?

- Arrange for your students to be at their bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Monitor children from damaging the property of others at the bus stop.
- Be aware the bus will pick up and drop off students at the same stop every day school is in session.
- Help your children learn their bus numbers.
- Review the bus safety rules with your children.
- Bus pick-up and drop-off times are based on favorable weather and road conditions. Traffic congestion, road construction, inclement weather and population changes may cause minor adjustments in pick-up and drop-off times. Parents will be notified of any major changes in bus schedules that affect their child.

For additional information go to: <https://www.district196.org/services/transportation/transportation-fags>