



Transportation

FO(Regulation)

Eligibility

Students who are ten (10) years of age or younger and who reside in Orleans Parish are eligible for school-provided transportation (yellow bus transportation) only if they reside more than one (1) mile from the campus they attend.

Kindergarten through 5th grade students are eligible for this yellow bus transportation, whereas 6th through 12th grade students are eligible to request RTA passes, but only if they reside more than one (1) mile from the campus they attend and they reside in Orleans Parish.

If requested, RTA passes are at the expense of the Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans (hereinafter referred to as “LFNO”).

Student Transportation Services

LFNO will provide daily, free transportation by a vehicle approved for student transportation in accordance with BESE *Bulletin 119—Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures* with or public transportation payments and/or reimbursements in accordance with Section 2801 of Bulletin 126.

Yellow school bus transportation will be provided for all Kindergarten through 5th grade students residing within Orleans Parish and who reside more than one (1) mile from a campus. Pick-up points will be within a one (1) mile radius of the place of residency of each child residing within the parish. Families utilizing the school bus are required to submit two “proof of residency” items in order to have a child’s name added to the official bus roster. Proof of Residency items must be no more than 60 days old. Only students on the roster will be allowed to board the bus.

Additionally, 6th through 12th grade families who are Orleans Parish residents and who live more than one (1) mile from their campus, may receive, upon request, monthly Regional Transit Authority (RTA) passes for each LFNO child who is more than ten (10) years of age. Students in 6th through 12th grades will NOT be allowed to utilize the yellow bus service.

Families will be required to submit two “proof of residence” items in order to request RTA passes.

Hardship Applications

Students in 6th through 12th grades may submit a hardship application for yellow school bus service if the student has submitted the paperwork required to be considered economically disadvantaged and/or they have a sibling in grades K-5. However, these applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and approved only when there is space available on the bus and there is little or no impact on a current bus route.

Service Providers

The LFNO buses are fully inspected and insured. The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) provides all public transportation (streetcars, buses, and ferries) for the city. Transdev Services manages the day-to-day operations of the system.

Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Passes

All unused RTA bus passes should be returned to the front office. LFNO WILL NOT replace lost or stolen RTA bus passes. Parents and students are expected to care for the RTA bus passes issued to them judiciously.

Student Safety

The safety of our students is our highest priority, and all parties play a role in the safety of the children. These parties include the students, parents and parent designees, bus company representatives, and, of course, the LFNO representatives.

Parents are responsible for getting students to the bus safely. The bus driver’s responsibility begins as the students board the bus. Parents must consider the neighborhood, and take whatever precautions necessary to ensure the safety of their children on the way to the bus or while waiting for a bus to arrive. The school does not provide additional monitors, so bus drivers monitor student behavior.

Parents are strongly encouraged to help school officials by reinforcing the following safety measures with their children:

- Always use the handrail when entering and exiting the bus.
- Never walk behind a bus.
- Take 10 giant steps in front of the bus's front bumper in order to be seen by the driver.
- When crossing in front of the bus, wait for the signal from the driver to cross.
- If an item falls near the bus, never go under the bus or get near the tires. First, notify the driver and then, allow an adult to retrieve the item.

Behavioral Expectations—Parents

- The parent identifies on Registration forms, or on the Request to Update Information form, the names, and contact information of all persons authorized to pick up their child.
- The parent, or other designated adult, will be present at the bus stop each school day 10 minutes prior to the scheduled, published departure time to personally witness the child boarding the bus.
- The parent, or parent's designee, will be present at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled, published arrival time to receive the student(s) upon the bus's return at the conclusion of each school day. Students who are not picked up will be required to pay an additional cost (as determined by the bus company) for the trip or student(s) may be taken to the nearest police station.
- The parent, or the parent's designee, will not enter the bus at any time. The unauthorized boarding of a bus is a criminal offense and will be reported immediately to local authorities.
- The parent, or the parent's designee, will not confront the bus driver. Any complaints must be directed to your campus office manager

- The parent, or parent's designee, will not attempt to stop the bus once it has left the school building or bus stop.

Behavioral Expectations—Students

- All rules of student behavior in effect on the school campus apply to the bus.
- The student is expected to walk onto the bus and go directly to her/his seat.
- The student is expected to remain seated at all times when the bus is in motion.
- The student will not eat, drink, chew gum on the bus, or create litter.
- The student will keep hands and limbs inside bus windows.
- The student will refrain from aggressive behavior or behavior that incites arguments.
- When requested by the bus driver, or LFNO staff member, the student will sit in an assigned seat.
- The student will not deface or damage any part of the bus.

Bus Infractions and Penalties

Class 1 Rules Violations include:

- Littering on the vehicle
- Eating, drinking, or chewing gum on the bus
- Unnecessarily standing on the bus
- Putting any parts of the body outside the bus window
- Insubordination or refusing to follow direction from a driver (or monitor, if applicable) Offensive or obscene language or items on the bus
- Bullying, harassment or teasing
- Failure to comply with loading or unloading procedures
- Use of cell phones on the bus
- Parent tardiness in picking a child up from the bus stop. Parents are expected to be at the assigned stop

10 minutes prior to the scheduled, published times of arrival of the bus (See Section: **Undeliverable Students**).

Class 2 Rules Violations include:

- Weapons or drugs brought on the bus
- Throwing items from the bus or at the bus
- Defacing or damaging the bus in any form
- Tampering with emergency exits
- Fireworks, Lighters, or explosives on the bus
- Any conduct that would jeopardize the safety and well-being of other students or the driver - including physically assaulting the driver or other personnel
- Fighting on the bus or at the stop
- Sexual contact of any nature

If a student commits a Class 1 discipline violation, actions taken shall be as follows:

- 1st Violation: Warning is given to parent/guardian and student from the Transportation Coordinator; principal will be copied
- 2nd Violation: Student is suspended from the bus for 5 days
- 3rd Violation: Student is suspended from the bus for 10 days
- 4th Violation: Student may have her/his bus transportation privileges revoked for the remainder of the school year.

The driver shall make every attempt to establish discipline (i.e. changes in seat assignments) after a student's first, Class 1 violation.

If a student commits a Class 2 discipline violation, the student may have her/his bus transportation privileges revoked for the remainder of the school year.

In the event of any violation, the driver shall submit in writing the initial documentation of the incident and shall immediately provide it to the LFNO Transportation Coordinator. The school will review the incident form, will take action pursuant to the above policy, and will inform the driver in writing of any disciplinary actions, as well as the start date and end date for

all suspensions. All bus suspensions include extracurricular trips of any type.

In all cases of damage to the property of individuals and/or to the bus, parents are responsible for restitution.

In addition to receiving a loss of bus transportation privileges, students may also receive consequences for specific offenses listed within the school's code of conduct, such as the prohibition against cell phone use.

Loss of riding privileges does **not** excuse a child from school. If riding privileges are suspended, it is the responsibility of the parent to get the child to/from school.

Bus Schedules

Your child's name will be added to the bus route that correlates with your child's residence (Orleans Parish ONLY) as listed in our student information system. LFNO's Transportation Service is a "Minimum Four (4) Day" program*. This means that children who are registered as bus riders are expected to ride the bus at least four days a week.

Exception- LFNO Orleans Parish yellow bus service is a "Minimum Four (4) Day" program, with the addition of the following two exceptions. One exception allows for participation in an **LFNO-approved after school club, as long as it is scheduled for the same regular day each week. LFNO-approved after school clubs are not considered extensions of the regularly scheduled school day. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide for the child's transportation following the on-site, after school club. You must notify the transportation coordinator, by email, of your student's participation in the LFNO-approved after school club. Upon confirmation of your registration, your student will be marked as an afternoon car rider on club days. The second exception is that the parent may choose any one (1) day of the week for the child not to ride the bus, but the chosen day must remain the same.*

Further, ***any student who is not at his/her designated stop for 5 consecutive days may be dropped from the bus service.*** In addition, it will take up to 5 days for a student to be reinstated to a bus route. In any event, parents are required to make arrangements for pick-up, if their child(ren) will not be riding the bus for any reason. If the child is placed in After Care, or returned by the bus to aftercare, parents will be responsible for any fees charged.

Permanent Changes

As the result of an official change of residency, and only for this reason, a permanent stop change may be requested via email to your child's office manager or, by submitting a hard copy that may be obtained in the front office. You will be asked to present two proofs of residency, and it may take up to 5 business days to process and assign a new route. You will receive a notice with the new route information.

Temporary Changes

Emergency (examples below) request to change a bus schedule. ○ Emergency examples include but are not limited to:

■ Accidents

■ Death

■ Illness

○ Non-Emergency changes, as deemed by LFNO, will not be implemented.

Transportation Change Cut-Off Times

Below outlines the times in which a parent/guardian must notify by email their teacher, Office Manager, and the Transportation Coordinator of any *emergency* change requests in transportation:

- Prior to 10:30 AM on whole days (including Wednesday)

Undeliverable Students (Kindergarten through 5th Grade)

LFNO will ensure compliance with R.S. 14:93.2.1 for all children under the age of 10 by requiring The parent or parent's designee to be present at the bus stop to receive the child 10 minutes prior to the scheduled, published time of arrival for the bus. If a parent, or approved designee whose name appears on the authorized pick-up list, is not present at the time the bus arrives at the stop or before the scheduled departure time for the stop, the student is considered undeliverable. The bus driver will then return undeliverable students to a school After Care program for a fee. When the undeliverable child is placed in "After Care," parents will be responsible for a \$25 "After Care" charge. All LFNO staff members are mandatory reporters and may have to report issues regarding undeliverable students to the Department of Children and Family Services or transport students to the nearest police station. Additionally, a child(ren) may lose bus transportation privileges for up to one (1) year on the third, undeliverable offense.

Service Concerns

Service concerns ***should not*** be directed to the bus driver or bus service provider but should be directed to your campus office manager

Students with Disabilities

When students with disabilities commit offenses on the bus, that student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be reviewed. The ESS Director will be notified of all behavior infractions of students that have an IEP in place. If the behavior is determined to be non-related to the student's disability, the student will be subject to the same consequences as his/her non-disabled peers.

Transportation for Students with Special Needs

The student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Health Plan (IHP) determines the level of transportation service for special needs students. The IEP Committee makes these determinations. The committee's determinations are considered final. Parents who feel their

child may have a disability should contact the Educational Services Coordinator.

Late Bus

Occasionally there are issues related to mechanical breakdowns of buses, unusual traffic conditions, or illness of drivers. In such instances, the bus driver will notify the Office Manager and Transportation Coordinator. Anytime a student is tardy due to issues related to yellow bus transportation, the tardiness will be excused. In addition, at the discretion of the principal or her/his designee, the student will be allowed to have breakfast if the child normally eats the school breakfast and if it is reasonable for the cafeteria staff to provide said breakfast.

Medical Emergency Transportation

Parents are responsible for arranging transportation for their child in the event the child becomes ill during the school day. If school officials are unable to reach the parent or any of the emergency contacts, and if the school nurse deems it a medical emergency requiring immediate medical intervention, the school will contact EMS and the child will be transported to a hospital by ambulance. All costs associated with EMS and transportation via ambulance must be borne by the parent.

School Bus Accidents/Incidents

Accidents and incidents are sensitive issues, which must be reported to the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), LFNO Transportation Coordinator, LFNO Principal, and COO. It is critical to promptly notify all parties concerned and to ensure that these events are managed in a prompt, professional manner.

- All accidents/incidents involving school buses must be reported to the NOPD, the Transportation Coordinator, and to the Head of School, immediately, regardless of whether there are students on board or the degree of damage.
- If students sustain injuries requiring medical treatment, they will be transported to the nearest

hospital by ambulance. School officials will advise parents of the hospital receiving the students.

- Non-injured students will be released to their parents when released by investigating authorities.

Student Data Transmission

LFNO shall submit updated student data to the vendor up to once per week. This will be in an electronic format, preferably Excel, and will contain the name, school, grade, address, phone, secondary number, and emergency contact information/numbers.