

Stonington Public Schools Transportation Handbook 2023-2024



Stonington Public Schools

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August 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome back to the 2023-2024 school year! As we look forward to the start of the new school year, I am pleased to share with you the updated transportation handbook, which contains important information and helpful tips for making your child's trip to and from school a positive and safe experience.

In May of 2023, the Stonington Board of Education updated its [Transportation- Policy 3541](#) to clearly communicate to parents and families the parameters under which First Student, the bus company, and the district establishes bus stops. Stops are set with safety as the number one consideration. Please take a minute to review the policy and learn how the stops are determined. Shifts in student enrollment within a neighborhood, the number of bus drivers available, or new safety considerations may result in changes in a bus stop location from year to year. Last year's stop for your child may not be this year's stop! We anticipate bus stop locations to be published on the district website on or around August 23, 2023.

As always, the district appreciates your assistance in making the transition back to school a smooth one by your adherence to the best practices outlined in the handbook. I look forward to working with you to continue safe and timely transportation for the children across the district.

Should you need further information about transportation services you may contact me, Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities at (860) 572-0506 extension 2154 or via email at peter.anderson@stongingtonschools.org.

Best regards,

Peter Anderson
Director of Operations and Facilities

District Transportation

The Board of Education provides transportation to and from school for all students in grades K-12 who are deemed eligible for the service. The Board of Education passed a new Transportation Policy in the spring of 2023 in order to provide families with detailed information used by First Student and the district to determine the location of bus stops. The criteria used by First Student and the district is clearly outlined in [Board Policy 3541](#). Please take a few minutes to review it. Students may be assigned to a different bus stop than the previous year based upon shifts in neighborhood enrollment and the location of other nearby stops or safety considerations. Students with disabilities may require transportation accommodations. Any such accommodations are determined through the 504 process or by the IEP team. These accommodations are arranged in collaboration with the [Department of Special Services](#).

Bus routes and schedules will be posted on the district and school websites the approximately two weeks prior to the opening of school. Keep in mind every effort is made to keep the travel time under one hour for all riders. Pick-up times are estimates and may vary based upon the number of available drivers, inclement weather, unexpected traffic delays or construction. At the beginning of each school year, it takes a few weeks for drivers and families to settle into the new schedule. Your patience during the first few weeks of school is greatly appreciated as all students, families, and drivers settle into the new routines. Minor changes may be made to stops at the beginning of the school year based upon new information that informs the bus company and the district of unforeseen safety considerations.

Should you have a safety concern about your child's bus stop; a request for a change in the location of the stop can be made through the online form located on the Stonington Public Schools Transportation webpage between September 20-October 4, 2023. **Only changes related to safety considerations will be considered and changes for the convenience of a family will generally not be granted.** The Directors of Facilities and Operations will review requests and respond to families no later than 10 business days after receipt of the request. Note that drivers are not authorized to make any changes in bus stops.

Walkers

In determining the eligibility of a resident public school student or eligible private school student for transportation, the distance considerations outlined below are applied. Distance measurements will be based on the most direct route from the student's home beginning at a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the home to the edge of the school property or bus pickup areas. Students who live at these stated distances from school or closer do not qualify for transportation absent a safety consideration.

Grades K-5	¾ of a mile from the school
Grades 6-8	1 mile from the school
Grades 9-12	1 ½ miles from the school