

Canon-McMillan School District

Frequently Asked Transportation Questions

Why doesn't the bus stop at my house, even though it drives by?

Frequent stops can lead to impatient drivers attempting to pass stopped school buses, creating unsafe conditions. More stops also delay the bus and increase ride times for all students. Stops are placed strategically to serve groups of students in a neighborhood efficiently.

I can't see the bus stop from my home. Why isn't it closer?

Canon-McMillan transports approximately 6,000 students. It is not feasible to place every stop within view of each household. Bus stop locations are chosen based on safety, efficiency, and proximity for multiple students.

Will the bus come down our cul-de-sac?

Generally, buses do not enter cul-de-sacs unless required for special education transportation. Reasons include:

1. Reduced visibility and increased risk in tight spaces.
2. Difficulty maneuvering due to bus size.
3. Risk of the bus rear swinging toward sidewalks.
4. Hazards such as parked cars or tight turns.
5. Buses should avoid reversing with students on board.
6. Risk of property damage to mailboxes or landscaping.

Why does my child have to cross the street to get on the bus?

While we try to minimize it, not all students can be picked up on the door side. If you prefer, your child may wait on their side of the street. Buses activate stop signs and warning lights to halt traffic in all directions, ensuring student safety.

My child carries a large instrument or heavy backpack. Can the stop be moved closer?

Bus stops are placed centrally for the benefit of all students along the route. Changes to accommodate individual needs often result in longer walks for others and are generally not made.

I leave for work early and can't supervise my child. Can the stop be at our home?

While we understand personal circumstances, stops must be determined consistently across the district. Individual home stops are not made based on personal schedules.

Why is the bus late?

Delays may be caused by weather, traffic, driver absences, mechanical issues, or unexpected events. We work diligently to maintain schedules. If a bus is more than 10–20 minutes late, contact Transportation at 724-745-1502.

Why doesn't the bus go further into my subdivision?

Bus size and turning radius limit maneuverability in narrow or congested subdivisions. Many neighborhoods were not designed with school bus access in mind.

Why is my child's bus crowded while others appear nearly empty?

Bus routes are planned based on enrollment data, previous years, and safety guidelines. While we aim for balanced loads, perfect distribution is not always possible due to geographic and logistical constraints.

Why do some addresses have home stops if most don't?

Home stops may exist for:

- Special needs students.
- Midpoints on long streets.
- Locations along high-traffic (e.g., four-lane) roads.

How far can a student's home be from their bus stop?

Stops may be up to 1/2 mile from a student's home. All Canon-McMillan stops are within this distance guideline.

How are bus stop locations established?

Stops are planned for safety and efficiency, following Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and School Board guidelines. Considerations include:

1. Safety of the waiting/loading zone.
2. Student access to the stop.
3. Visibility for motorists (minimum 500 feet).
4. Distance required to activate bus warning systems.
5. Avoiding routes requiring buses to back up.
6. Minimizing travel into cul-de-sacs or dead ends.
7. Avoiding obstacles in narrow developments.
8. Limiting the total number of stops to reduce risk and delay.

Can I request a specific bus driver?

No. Routes are assigned to drivers based on seniority and district procedures. Personal preference cannot determine driver assignments.

Who approves stop changes?

The Transportation Director and Coordinator develop and approve all routes and stop changes. Drivers are not permitted to alter stops without approval.

How do I request a bus stop change?

Submit a written request using the Bus Stop Change Request Form available on the Transportation webpage. Include:

- Student's name and school
- Route number
- Requested stop
- Reason for the request

Submit via:

Fax: 724-873-3565

Email: transportation@cmsd.k12.pa.us

Mail:

Canon-McMillan School District Support Facility
Transportation Department
186 Boone Avenue
Strabane, PA 15363

Requests are reviewed in the order received, and a response will be provided in a timely manner.