



# Wyoming Valley West School District



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can my student ride the bus at any time?

Students who plan to take the bus need to complete a request to ride the bus form located on the district's website <https://www.wvwsd.org/departments/transportation>

2. Why can't my child get off wherever he/she wants in the afternoon?

State law and the Transportation Office require a note, signed by the parent and school administrator, to alter the destination of students. The note will be given first to the school, then to the driver. This allows the drivers to focus on driving and safety instead of having to decide whether the student should be allowed to change their routing and get off with a friend or ride to a different neighborhood. This should be the decision of the parent. The driver has no other way to verify the parent has made this decision. This policy avoids confusion and the chance of students getting lost or running away.

3. Who handles discipline on the bus?

The driver is the authority figure responsible for enforcing the safe transport rules. Bus safety rules are in the student handbooks. Riding the bus is a "privilege" not a right. Children who misbehave jeopardize the safety of others. This is why we have little tolerance for misbehavior on the bus. Unlike the classroom, it is not a place where we can "work through" certain behaviors. The driver can handle minor discipline problems speaking to students or reassigning seats. More serious issues are addressed at the school by the school principal. Misconduct forms may be submitted to the school by drivers. These may result in warning, reprimand, or removal from the bus.

4. May a school district suspend busing services for my child?

Yes. Transportation is a privilege, not a right.

5. What time should my student be at their assigned bus stop?

It is recommended that students arrive at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to the posted time. This allows for any unforeseen delays or variations in the bus schedule. By arriving early, students can avoid the risk of missing the bus and ensure that they are ready to board when the bus arrives.

6. Is the driver allowed to assign seats to my child?

The driver and or administrator are authorized to assign seats.

7. May a parent or guardian board the school bus?

Pennsylvania legislature passed a Bill in 2001 with the following provisions:

"Any person who shall enter a public school bus or public school activity bus after being forbidden to do so by the authorized school bus driver in charge thereof, or the school principal to whom the public school bus or public school activity bus is assigned shall be guilty of a class one misdemeanor. Any person who shall unlawfully and willfully stop, impede, delay, or detain any public school bus or public school activity bus being operated for public school purposes shall be guilty of a class one misdemeanor."



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8. Why is my child's bus late?

Weather, traffic, road construction, driver absenteeism, maintenance difficulties and unforeseen incidents are possible reasons for delays in the arrival of school buses in the morning and afternoon. When a regular driver is absent, a sub driver may be driving the route. The sub driver will run the route at a slightly different speed than the regular driver. That is why it is very important to be at your bus stop ten minutes before the stop time. Drivers check buses before their routes and sometimes find mechanical problems that can cause delays and require driving another bus for that day. This can cause the bus not to be running at the normal pace.

9. If the bus does not arrive, how long should my child wait at the bus stop?

Students should wait a minimum of 30 minutes before leaving the stop area. Use good judgment based on weather conditions.

10. What to do when your child does not arrive at the stop?

First, stay calm. Occasionally, for various reasons, children may still be at school, on a different bus, or remained on the bus. Contact your child's school to inform them. If you cannot get through, contact the Director of Transportation at 570.288.6551 x10500. If the line is busy, keep trying until you get through to a live person.

11. What if I am late to the bus stop to meet my child?

Students in Kindergarten and First Grade will remain on the bus unless there is a parent or guardian at the stop. Students who are still on the bus at the end of the route are taken back to the school. If you missed the stop, go back to the child's school.

12. When the bus is running late, why don't you call to inform the parents?

If a bus is going to be more than 15-20 minutes late, a message is sent through REMIND to any contact number you supplied to the district. With 40 buses running daily and 30-70 students on each bus, there simply is not enough time to physically call every parent or emergency contact in such a short window of time. In case of a breakdown, our focus is on getting a replacement vehicle to service the students as quickly as possible. Please know there is a bus on the way, and we do everything humanly possible to transport your child to and from school in a timely manner every day.

13. Who is responsible for student behavior at bus stops?

The District is responsible to determine safe stop locations. Parents are responsible for their child's behavior at the stop. If inappropriate behavior is reported to the bus driver, they will turn this information over to the school for investigation.

14. Is my student allowed to have food and or drinks on the bus?

No. Students are to keep food sealed and, in their backpacks, while riding on the bus. All drinks must remain sealed and secured.

15. Cell phones are not permitted to be used on the bus.

For the safety of all students, cell phones are not permitted to be used on the bus. They can create unnecessary disruptions and distractions to the driver, which could put everyone at risk.