

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FARERIDE POLICY & GUIDELINES

Services Provided by FIRST STUDENT, INC.

Unified School District #232

All students residing 2.5 miles or more from their established attendance site will be offered free bus transportation to and from school each day.

All students, grades K-12 living less than 2.5 miles from their attendance site may register for bus service as pay riders.

EXCEPTIONS: Students who complete required forms and qualify for federal lunch program assistance are exempt from payrider status. Also, students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that includes transportation as a related service are exempt from payrider status. (See below for additional information about exceptions.)

Fareride Bus Transportation Fees

\$300 per student for the entire school year if paid by July 31, 2026

Maximum of \$600 per family

\$350 per student for the entire school year if paid after July 31

Maximum of \$700 per family

INSTALLMENT PLAN - Parents may choose to pay the full year in two (2) installments. To qualify for the \$300/student annual fee, first payment must be received by **July 31, 2026**. The second payment is due by **October 31, 2026**.

Payment to First Student, Inc. must be by check, money order, or credit card. First Student does not accept cash payments.

Enrollment for bus service is a commitment for the full school year. Families will pay for no more than two (2) students; a maximum of \$600* for the year will be charged to any one family if paid by **July 31, 2026**. *The fee will increase to a maximum of \$700 for the year for any one family if paid *after* July 31.

All Students qualifying for *Federal Free and/or Reduced lunch* assistance will be offered free bus transportation to and from school. Eligible families/students must check the designated box for the busing option on the Federal Lunch Program Assistance Form.

All students Kindergarten through Grade 12 choosing to be part of the Fareride Program will be picked up and dropped off at neighborhood stop sites. Stop sites will be determined by *First Student, Inc.* to create the most orderly movement within neighborhoods and communities. *First Student* cannot accommodate changing stop sites during a week. It is the parents' responsibility to make accommodations for changing events related to pick up and drop off sites.

Special Education students with transportation related service on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be eligible for free transportation services. All other Special Education students will be payrider students if they live less than 2.5 miles from the designated attendance site.

Siblings of students who qualify for free transportation on their IEP may not ride on a bus designated as a special education bus, even if they attend the same school, unless they also have an IEP and qualify for transportation as a related service. Only students with IEPs that designate transportation as a related service may ride on a special education bus route.

Early Childhood students with transportation included as part of the IEP will be eligible for free transportation services. No transportation services will be provided to Peer Model students within the Early Childhood program. Parents of Peer Model students will be responsible for transportation of their students to and from the designated attendance site.

Parents of all students (K -12) who choose not to participate in the Fareride Program are responsible for transportation of their students to and from the designated attendance site.

Transportation circumstances and needs beyond the scope of these guidelines will be addressed on an individual basis dependent on established bus routes, bus seating allocations and capacity, and other factors requiring administrative approval in accordance with other school district policies. The Board of Education and Administration may address variances as needed to meet the needs of families, students, and the school district.