CCPS Transportation FAQs

Q. How do I arrange transportation for a student?

A. To arrange transportation, the student must first be enrolled at the school. If you have moved and are still living within the boundary of the same school, your new address must be given to the school and proof of residence is also required. The school will then contact the Transportation Department with the student's information. At that time, a bus stop will be assigned, and the school will be given the bus number, the approximate time, and the stop location. This information can also be found in the students Home Access Center (HAC) account.

Q. Why is it important to update a student's address at the school?

A. The address indicated as the pickup address is maintained at the school level. That information is provided to the Transportation Department electronically by the school database and is the basis of student assignment to bus stops; therefore, any information that has changed for the student must be changed at the school. **The student's school is the primary record keeper for ALL student information.**

Q. How safe is bus transportation when the school bus does not have seat belts?

A. School bus transportation is the safest form of travel in the United States with over 24 million students (about the population of Texas) transported daily nationwide on 450,000 buses traveling over 4.3 billion miles per year. Over a 10-year period, only 1/3 of (or) 1 percent of all fatal crashes involved a student on a school bus. School bus safety is based on closely spaced and padded seats on a large, framed vehicle mandated by Federal Law. The State of Maryland has additional requirements including a limit on the vehicle's life. The National Traffic Highway Safety Administration tests have shown that lap belts only (which is what New York, New Jersey, and Florida have on their buses) would kill or injure more than they would save. Usually, when a fatality occurs on a school bus, it is when another large vehicle (dump truck, tractor trailer, or train) collides with a school bus and the victim was sitting at the point of impact. Nationwide statistics indicate that your child is 63 times safer inside the school bus than going to school in your car.

Q. What kind of screening process do drivers go through to make sure they are qualified to be around children?

They are fingerprinted, a criminal background check is completed, their driver's license and driving record is reviewed, references are checked, a drug test is conducted (including pre-employment and random testing,) a DOT Physical is obtained, and new drivers are required to successfully complete 30-plus hours of training.

Q. How are bus stops established?

Students shall be assigned the school vehicle/bus stop nearest their homes as determined by the Director of Transportation or designee. At no time will the maximum one-way walking distance to the school vehicle/bus stop from the end of the driveway of the student's residence be greater than one-half mile for elementary students and greater than one mile for secondary students. Daycare providers are responsible for transporting students to and from school vehicle/bus stops. Students will also not be required to walk along roads with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or greater to access a bus stop

Q. What are the criteria to have a bus come into our development?

A. The development must meet all five of the basic requirements:

- Are the development roads public roads? (State, County, or Town owned and maintained)?
- Can the bus enter and exit the development without backing up? (loop road or 100 ft minimum diameter cul-de-sac)
- Does the distance that the furthest student must walk exceed one mile?
- Is the sight distance adequate for the bus to exit the development without undue risk to the passengers?
- We also consider if we can safely load on the main road considering sight distance of traffic approaching the bus, traffic volume, posted speed limit, and the number of students to be loaded.

Q. Who do I call if I do not like where the bus stop is located?

A. You can submit a bus help inquiry. We will review and provide an answer within 10 business days. Stops are used by multiple students and are not always ideal to everyone. We expect that students will have to walk to stops and the stop may not be in direct line of sight from your residence. Sometimes there are numerous issues to be considered in relocating a stop and we may not be successful in meeting everyone's expectations. We encourage parental supervision at the bus stop.

Q. Who do I contact when there is a problem at the bus stop?

A. Calvert County Public Schools is not responsible for student behavior at the bus stop. We assume responsibility when the students board the bus, and it ends when they exit the bus. If there is a problem at the bus stop then you should contact your local law enforcement agency.

Q. My student is having a problem with the bus driver, should I go to the bus stop to talk with the driver?

A. No, we recommend that anytime you have a concern with something that happens on the bus, you call or talk with your student's school administrators. Going to the bus stop puts everyone in a defensive position without all the information and it can easily turn into a confrontation, which is inappropriate for the students to witness. Drivers are trained to try and avoid those confrontations to the point of closing the door and driving away. Federal law prohibits blocking the doorway or interfering with the bus's operation. This includes boarding the bus.

Q. Why did the driver not stop at my stop when my student was running late or did not wait for my student to get to the bus stop?

A. We make a concerted effort to be consistent at the time we start the route. After the first stop, many things can affect the arrival time at subsequent stops, so even the most conscientious driver will vary by no more than a few minutes. Students are told to be at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the normal arrival of the bus to allow for those variances, and to be waiting where they are visible to the bus driver as the bus approaches the stop. Drivers are required by law to activate their yellow lights at least 100 feet before stopping and turning them on. They are not required to wait for tardy students. Usually, drivers will not leave students if they are close to the stop and trying to get there as fast as they can. The loading and unloading process is the most dangerous part of the bus ride and students are the safest when they are at the stop before the bus arrives and not running for it after it shows up.

Q. My student has been suspended from the bus, and I have some questions about why he was suspended. Who do I contact?

A. The school administration is responsible for overseeing student bus behavior issues. Drivers report issues directly to school administrators and the school administration is responsible for investigating the incident by talking with other students on the bus and viewing the video if needed to complete the investigation. The Transportation Department is involved when the driver does not follow procedures.

Q. Who maintains the fleet of buses that transport CCPS students?

The Contractor shall maintain all school vehicles/buses, to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and Board laws, procedures, rules, policies, and contracts. The contractor shall always maintain all school vehicles/buses and Alternative School Vehicles in clean and sanitary condition.

Q. Do CCPS contracted Buses go through inspection?

All school vehicles/buses under Contract with CCPS shall be subject to at least three safety inspections per year. Additionally, contracted school vehicles/buses with more than 12 years of service may be subject to additional safety inspections.

Q. How is inclement weather delay or cancelation of school determined?

Information pertaining to inclement weather can be found on the website at Weather Decisions.

Q. I have some other transportation questions, how do I contact transportation?

A. You can submit a bus help inquiry and one of our team members will respond to your inquiry or call 443-550-8786.