

Lake City Public School District

Transportation Frequently Asked Questions

How will I know which bus my children will ride and when they should be at the bus stop?

In August, school bus information will be mailed to parents of kindergartners by the school district. Parents of new students to the district and parents whose children have a change of address will be contacted by Bluff Country School Bus. All incoming 7th graders who live on the south side of the railroad tracks near Bluff View Elementary and were non-eligible as 6th graders will receive busing info at the 7th grade orientation meeting. If routes and pick up times do not change, the same pick up time and location will remain from year to year. If parents have questions or concerns, they should call Bluff Country School Bus (651-345-4112).

How far must children live from school before the school district is required to transport them?

By Minnesota State Statute, districts are required to transport students living more than two miles from school. In Lake City, students in grades K - 12 living more than one mile from school are provided transportation.

Must a school district transport children who live less than two (2) miles from school if there is a hazard between home and school?

A school district may transport children who would encounter an extraordinary traffic, drug, or crime hazard if they walk, but the school district is not required to provide transportation. In Lake City, the district has identified a limited amount of hazardous conditions, due to extraordinary traffic conditions: all railroad crossings for K -12 students, K- 6 students living north west of Highway 63, 7-12 students living southeast of Highway 61 and south of Roschen Park, K- 12 students that must travel across the Highway 61 viaduct, and areas on South Tenth Street, east and south of Valley View Road. High School students located west of Valley View Road are provided a bus stop due to having to cross the railroad tracks. The district reserves the right to make changes as appropriate.

My child is not riding the bus this year. Do we need to let anyone know?

Yes, it is very helpful to those planning the routes to know when students are not riding the school bus. This is especially important for rural students. It allows routes to be planned as efficiently as possible for those students who do ride the bus. Please call Bluff Country School Bus(651-345-4112) if you know that your child will not ride the bus to and/or from school. If your situation changes, please call the school to update your status. Please allow for **three** days advance notice.

How far can a district require a child to walk to a bus stop?

There is nothing in Minnesota State Statutes about the distance between a child's home and the bus stop. The only exception regards special education students. Careful planning is taken when establishing bus stops, which are typically less than three blocks from a student's home. Visibility of a bus stop from the child's home is not a deciding factor for bus stops.

Can my child lose his/her riding privileges?

Yes. In Minnesota, riding a school bus is a privilege and not a right. The district's general student behavior rules are in effect for all students on school buses, including students riding regular routes and extracurricular routes as well as nonpublic school students. The district has adopted rules of conduct for waiting at the bus stop and for riding the school bus. If a child does not follow the rules, he or she could lose riding privileges for the entire school year. Expectations for riding the school bus are included in student handbooks and can be found in Lake City [School Board Policy 709](#) (Student Transportation Safety Policy).

Will my child receive school bus safety training at school?

Children in grades K - 6 must receive school bus safety training during the first few weeks of school. It is recommended that parents review the school bus safety rules with their children, especially younger students, throughout the school year. According to Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.90:

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade enrolled during the first or second week of school must receive school bus safety training by the end of the third week of school. Students in kindergarten through third grade must receive the school bus safety training twice each school year.

Students in seventh grade through tenth grade only need to receive school bus safety training or safety instructional material if they did not receive the training while enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade. If these students require the training, the training must occur by the end of the sixth week.

I would like my child to ride the bus home with a friend after school. Is this possible?

Students are to ride their assigned bus only, due to space issues and student tracking. Students are generally not permitted to ride to or from an alternative location with a friend. However, in the event of a family emergency, parents should contact the Principal's Office at the child's school as early in the day as possible to request alternative arrangements. If the request is approved by the transportation provider, the Principal's Office will issue a one time pass for the student to provide to the appropriate bus driver.

I want my child to be transported based on daycare. Does the district have to provide transportation?

The district will provide transportation to and from a daycare as long as the day care address meets the same requirements as the parents' primary address. The daycare must be in the district the child attends and meet the distance requirements. Transportation to and from daycare must be consistent. Parents should contact the transportation provider if special circumstances require consideration from the district. The district's Transportation Director will provide final approval for any special requests.

What if I am late bringing my child to the bus stop?

Students or parents should never chase a moving bus or follow in a car to another bus stop. It is very dangerous for anyone, especially children, to chase a bus or walk unexpectedly alongside a bus. If a child arrives late to a bus stop, parents should drive their child to school. Parents should discuss in advance a plan if their child arrives at the bus stop late and misses their bus. (ie; child is to return home and call his or her parent.)

How many different pickup and drop off locations can be designated for my child?

A student shall be limited to having one main location for pickups and drop-offs for the purpose of riding to and from school. Parents should contact the transportation provider to ask for day care. The district's Transportation Director will provide final approval for any special requests.

How are bus stop locations determined?

Every effort is made to select safe locations to load and unload students. Generally, neighborhood bus stops are centrally located for all students that live in the immediate vicinity. Please note that drivers are not allowed to adjust their routes without authorization. If it is necessary to request a change or addition to a route, the first step should be to contact Bluff Country School Bus. After the initial contact is made and parents are still not satisfied with the response, parents may then call the superintendent of Lake City Public Schools.

I am open enrolling my child into ISD 813. What are the responsibilities of the enrolling district regarding transportation?

The enrolling district has the obligation to transport from a safe and appropriate location near to the district line. In ISD 813, a safe and appropriate location as close to the district line as possible will be designated for the bus stop. Students who live outside of ISD 813 are not eligible for school bus service unless permission is expressly granted by the district.

Can my child ride a different bus to attend a music lesson or another activity?

No. Transportation is not available on regular routes for non-school activities such as work, music or dance lessons, horse riding lessons, scouts, church events, etc. or to/from an alternate location with a friend.

Are there any laws and rules that limit passenger seating on a school bus?

Yes. The number of children in a seating area cannot be more than the number of passengers that can be fully seated with a maximum of three per seat. The seating capacity must be adjusted according to each passenger's physical size but cannot be more than the manufacturer's rated seating capacity for the bus. No child is allowed to stand while the bus is in motion.

Is there a law or rule that limits the amount of time a child can spend on the school bus?

There is nothing in state law or rule that sets a maximum amount of time a child can spend on the school bus. Local school districts may adopt a maximum time in their School Board's transportation policy. In Lake City, the district's goal is to keep rides as close to one hour or less as possible, but some students in outlying areas may have rides slightly longer than one hour.