



Frederick County Public Schools
Reach. Challenge. Prepare.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Q. Is a special education student guaranteed transportation?**
- A.** Transportation may be considered a related service if it is specified in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). This decision is made by the IEP team after careful consideration of the student's needs. When not identified as a related service, transportation will be provided in the same way it is provided for general education students.
- Q. How soon after a placement decision is made will transportation services begin?**
- A.** On average, it takes up to 5 business days, however we attempt to provide services as soon as possible. Once the student is added to the route we then notify parent/guardian of the pick up time, bus number and drop off time.
- Q. Will my child's bus schedule stay the same all year?**
- A.** As other students are added or deleted from the route it may be necessary to adjust your student's times throughout the school year. The transportation department will notify the parent if pick-up or drop-off times are altered significantly.
- Q. May a student be dropped off at a different location in the afternoon or do both pick up and drop off need to be the same.**
- A.** This must be done on a consistent basis. We will not be able to accommodate daily or weekly changes.
- Q. Is "curb" or "door-to-door" service available?**
- A.** Those students whose disabilities do not permit them to go to a designated bus stop may be picked up at the curb in front of their home. This decision is made at the IEP team meeting and is indicated on the student's IEP. Please be aware there may be situations where this service is not possible. Examples include dead end streets, cul de sacs, and courts etc. where it is deemed unsafe to bring a school bus.

Q. If I move, how do I let my bus driver know?

A. You must contact your school and request a change of address. The school will notify the transportation office. The transportation office will not take requests for a change in pick up or drop off over the phone; this must go through your child's school.

Q. Can a car seat, seatbelt, safety vest be provided for my student?

A. Yes. They will be provided when needed and or required by the student's IEP.

Q. What should parents/guardians do to have their child ready for school?

A. Parents/guardians should have their children ready and at the bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled pick up time. Tight scheduling does not permit the driver to wait for your child, nor can they blow the horn because it disturbs others.

Q. Can a student be discharged at home without an adult being present?

A. If the child is capable of taking care of himself/herself, this might be considered based on a number of factors (age, handicapping condition, length of time alone etc.) Such decisions will be made by administrators on a case-by-case basis. Please be aware that pursuant to Maryland regulation, students under the age of 8 may not be left home alone unless under the care of a "reliable" person who is over the age of 13.

Q. Who should I contact when I have a question or concern about my child's special transportation?

A. If a parent, guardian, or school administrator has questions regarding a students special transportation they should contact the transportation office at 301-644-5389.