



Frequently Asked Questions

How do we establish routes?

Routes are established based on regulations from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as well as our school district Board of Education policies. Regular Education buses are not to enter cul-de-sacs, dead end and closed loop streets and typically only travel along main thorough-fares.

Route guidelines must be followed in order to ensure that we are providing the most efficient transport of students possible. Routing guidelines include:

- Stops will be spaced:
 - Elementary – *minimum* of 500'
 - Secondary – *minimum* of 1,000'
- Buses will travel along main roads when possible and avoid entering: cul-de-sac, dead end and closed loop streets
- Stops will be placed at intersections and other easily identifiable locations when possible

We appreciate your patience, flexibility and understanding as bus stops may not be as convenient as in the past as we strive to minimize transportation costs to focus more funding into the classroom.

How far are students expected to walk to a stop?

The Raytown School District in accordance with state regulation has a school walk-zone of a ½ mile. Meaning students residing within ½ mile of their school of attendance are not provided district transportation. Students who live within this walker boundary have the option to walk to the nearest established stop outside the walker zone, but this needs to be communicated to transportation by phone. Following this guideline students may walk up to ½ mile to their bus stop. As students increase in grade level and maturity, stop distances may increase.

What time will the bus pick up and drop off my child?

Due to the bus operating in conditions beyond our control such as weather, traffic congestion, road blockages, and mechanical issues we ask parents:

- Morning Pick Up - to have their child at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled time and stay until 5 minutes after the scheduled time.
- Afternoon Drop Off – We do not guarantee drop off times, but we will provide our best estimate. Buses may leave the schools at inconsistent times, poor traffic conditions, and inclement weather may effect drop off. For this reason, we ask parents to be ready for the child at school dismissal time. As the year goes on times will become more consistent.

The bus drives right past my house. Why can't the bus stop to pick up/drop off my child?

If we stopped the bus at every home that we drive past that has students residing in it, the buses would never get to school in the time allowed. In addition, every stop location has been reviewed to ensure it is as safe as possible for the students who utilize the location. There are several factors that are considered when establishing a stop such as; Is the street safe for students to cross with good visibility in both directions? Do buses and motorists have a good view of the stop from both directions? Convenience or proximity to a specific house is not taken into consideration when creating routes.

Why doesn't the bus come into my court, Dead-End Street or Cul-De-Sac?

This is one of the recommendations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Courts, cul de sacs and dead ends are dangerous to maneuver. There may not be enough room for the bus to turn around without having to back up. Backing up is dangerous and is against our department policies.

When does the district change bus stops?

Bus stops are changed when necessary to provide the most efficient routes possible. Major changes are implemented between each attendance session and previously established stops may be changed due to a number of factors. Typically, no route/stop change requests are processed the first two weeks of school to allow time for route and ridership data to be reviewed.

I live in a new subdivision, when will transportation come into my subdivision?

Transportation is provided to new subdivisions when the construction has progressed enough to allow the buses to travel safely, consistently through the streets without blockage or having to maneuver through large construction equipment or tight spaces.

My child says he can't eat/drink on the bus. Why?

Eating or drinking is not permitted in accordance with Board Policy JHCF for two reasons. First eating on the bus creates a choking hazard for students. When a driver is focused on the road appropriately, it would be very difficult to notice if a child was choking in his or her seat. The second reason is that some students have very severe food allergies and we would not want to compromise their safety.

How do I appeal my bus stop location?

All appeals should be submitted to the Director of Transportation Kevin Easley for review. Bus stop appeal forms are accessible via the Transportation Department link on the district web site. Appeals are reviewed by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC has been trained and is knowledgeable of State and District guidelines that govern bus stop locations. Appeal Forms can be mailed or dropped off to the Transportation Office. Parents will be notified after the meeting of the TAC decision.

Can my student's bus stop be dropped from the school bus route?

Yes, after the first two weeks of school stops are evaluated looking at ridership and unused stops will be made inactive. To activate an inactive stop please call transportation and communicate your need. Stops may be activated/inactivated throughout the year as the need arises.

I would like to leave my stop active just in case they need a ride, can I do this?

No, as outlined above the stops will be made inactive if students do not ride consistently.

My student only needs to ride the bus a few times a year or when their car breaks down?

For these cases, the schools can issue a bus pass with parent permission. Please be sure to send notification of this with your student to school and have them take it to the front office when they arrive so there is time to process and issue the pass. In some cases, a pass may not be available due to, location requested not currently being serviced, etc. Please call your school or Transportation Department for more details. It may take 24-72 business hours to make arrangements.

We have a family emergency and I need to drop off my students with a friend in the morning. They need to ride with their children in the morning. Is this possible?

Yes, the District realizes family situations will occur and for this reason drivers are instructed to pick up all age appropriate students on the morning routes. Students typically will be asked to sit in the front and the driver will need their information (name, grade). Please be sure to send a note with your student if they will need to ride to the friend's home that afternoon. Student should take the note to the school's office before noon to get a bus pass.

For more information, please log on to: www.raytownschools.org and click on the transportation tab.