

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BUS ROUTES

School bus transportation is provided for students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school or in an area designated as hazardous by the Illinois Department of Transportation. In partnership with District 202, Laidlaw provides transportation service for our regular education routes and Septran provides transportation for our special education routes.

Q. The bus drives right past my house. Why can't it stop at my house? I can't see the bus stop from my house.

While Plainfield School District would love to provide every child with door-to-door service, it is just not possible to do so. The number of bus stops on a route impacts the length of time our students are on the bus and the number of buses required to provide transportation services. Stops are centrally located throughout subdivisions to serve as many students as possible. Every effort is made to ensure that no elementary child has to walk more than 1/10 of a mile, middle and high school students walk no more than 4/10 of a mile. Beginning at the start of the 2011/12 school year, routes will be adjusted to implement a triple tier routing system. In order to make routes more efficient and run routes in the time allotted, middle & high school students will walk up to 4/10th of a mile to bus stops, which was previously 2/10th.

With over 20,000 students to provide transportation to, we are not able to position bus stops so that all parents are able to see the stop from their home. Stops are located at street corners or intersections because this is the safest stop location due to the expectations of motorists.

Q. How far can a bus stop be from the student's home?

Bus stops may be up to 1 ½ miles from the student's residence. Stops in District 202 are far less than 1 ½ miles from student's residences.

Q. We live in a cul-de-sac. Will the bus come down our street?

Except for special education circumstances, buses are generally not routed into a cul-de-sac or dead end street. Cul-de-sac stops are considered unwise for the following reasons:

- Cul-de-sac stops create blind spots often causing students to enter or exit in a danger zone around the bus (at a corner stop or street curb stop, they enter/exit outside the danger zone)
- Different styles and sizes of buses make maneuvering in cul-de-sacs difficult
- The rear of the bus has potential to swing around close to the sidewalk
- Parked cars and other obstacles create road hazards that may not be seen until entering the cul-de-sac and at a point of no return
- Backing up a bus when students are on board is strictly forbidden
- Property damage to mailboxes and landscaping

Q. Why do some children have to cross the street to board the bus?

We are not able to route buses so that all children can board the bus on the door side. If parents choose, it is allowable for children to wait on the side of the street where they reside. The bus will stop traffic in all directions to accommodate students that need to cross the street.

Q. Why is my child's bus late?

Weather, traffic, driver absenteeism, maintenance difficulties and unforeseen incidents are responsible for delays in arrival of school buses. Please know that we do everything humanly possible to have all buses running on schedule each and every day. In the event your bus does not arrive as scheduled, contact First Student 726-0033 for regular education routes, or Septran 609-7725 for special education routes. Please

allow 10 to 15 minutes before calling. If necessary the District Transportation Department can be reached at 439-5467.

Q. Why can't you call when you know the bus will be late ?

There are as many as 60 to 65 students on some routes. It would be impossible to contact everyone in such a short time frame and many parents are not home or are waiting at the stop for their child.

Q. My child is starting Kindergarten. Will the bus pick my child up in front of the house ?

There are no special laws or requirements for transporting students enrolled in Kindergarten. Plainfield School district chooses to provide home stops during the mid-day routes, when only Kindergarten students ride the bus. AM Kindergarten students ride to school from the corner bus stops with all elementary students in their area, and a special mid-day bus drops them at their home, or a driveway convenient if several families live next to each other. PM Kindergarten students will be picked up at their home, or a convenient driveway for several families, and will ride the neighborhood bus home to the closest corner bus stop. **NO BUSES GO INTO CUL-DE-SACS**, so Kindergartners who live in a cul-de-sac will have bus stops at the entrance to the cul-de-sac, even for mid-day routes. Parents should make arrangements to meet students at the bus stop.

Q. Can I have my child bused from a day care provider ?

Yes, District 202 will provide busing to day care providers if they are in your attendance zone, and are in an area that qualifies for transportation. A signed sitter request form must be on file with the transportation office in order for a student to be assigned to a stop other than their home. A student may be assigned to one stop address other than their home, however it must be for every of the week. The student may be assigned to a different stop in the AM than they are in the PM, as long as they are for everyday of the week. Forms are available at each school and the transportation office.