

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When and where can I review my child's bus stop location and pick-up/drop-off location?

ELEMENTARY information will be mailed to the home address approximately one (1) week prior to the startup of the new school year.

WPI/LSMS/GHHS information is available by logging in to the confidential parent view of Synergy. Bus stop information is turned "off" during the summer months while routes are being developed, and turned "on" again, one (1) week prior to the startup of the new school year.

The bus goes right by my house—why can't it stop and pick-up my child?

There are many factors which should be taken into consideration when school administrators establish the placement of school bus stops. The basic legal factors are spelled out in MCL257.1855, but the primary concern is visibility of the bus to other traffic and the consideration of stopping distances necessary for other motor vehicles in order to accomplish safe loading and unloading of the children. In general, state law requires 400 feet of clear and continuous visibility on a highway or roadway where the speed limit is more than 35 miles per hour, and 200 feet where the speed limit is less than 35 miles per hour.

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

Not necessarily. There are no special laws or regulations for transporting regular education students enrolled in kindergarten. Transportation is provided in accordance with the requirements of the Pupil Transportation Act with regard to the placement of bus stops.

Is there a maximum ride time for students on a school bus?

There is no maximum riding time in the law for children in kindergarten through grade twelve.

If my child is late to the bus stop, can they go to another one?

NO, if a child is late to the bus stop, you need to take your child to school. This is for your child's safety. Students running up to the bus unexpectedly is not safe as the driver may not see them.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about the safety of my child getting to and from the bus stop? There are no sidewalks where we live and the bus stop is out of the "sightline" from our home.

It is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to see that a child gets safely to and from the designated bus stop location. The school district provides transportation as a non-mandated service and establishes placement of the bus stops in accordance with the requirements of the law.

Can my child be dropped off at the bus stop without an adult present?

Yes, it is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to see that a child gets safely to and from the designated bus stop daily. The district encourages all parents to be present at the bus stop ten (10) minutes prior to bus arrival time for both morning pick up and afternoon drop off.

Is there a law on the maximum distance a student has to walk to get to their designated bus stop location?

There is no law that specifies how far a child can walk to the bus stop.

When should my child be at the designated bus stop in the AM?

Bus riders should be at their designated bus stop at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time. This allows for some variation in the bus route due to unanticipated events.

If I think the weather is too questionable, I may not want my child attending school. Do I have the right to not send my child on the bus?

Absolutely. School administrators take considerable effort to assess weather conditions very early in the morning (before 5:30a.m.) and throughout the school day. As a parent/guardian, you can make the choice to keep your child home if you feel weather conditions warrant it. Across the nation, school buses are respected as the safest form of transportation, year-after-year. School buses are uniquely designed to offer unparalleled protection to your child while inside the school bus. Bus drivers are professional in transporting students to and from school and school-related events. Great effort is taken to provide a safe environment for your child while in the custodial care of the school bus driver.



Grand Haven Area Public Schools

Transportation Department

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KINDERGARTEN/YOUNG 5
TRANSPORTATION AND YOU!

The GHAPS Transportation Department is committed to safely transporting students to and from school, and on school-sponsored events. We are dedicated to providing a positive, caring and safe environment.

We would like to welcome you and your Kindergarten or Young 5 child to an exciting new experience.

RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS!



The bus ride to school can set the tone for the whole school day for your child.

Therefore, we have compiled this brochure to give you some important information about riding the school bus.

This will help create the safest and most enjoyable school bus ride possible for your child.

Please keep and refer to this brochure throughout the school year if you have questions about transportation.

SAFETY ON THE BUS

WHILE ON THE BUS I WILL.....

SIT DOWN/SIT BACK/PUT MY HANDS ON MY LAP

USE INSIDE VOICE

BE SAFE, BE KIND, BE RESPECTFUL

WHILE ON THE BUS I WILL NOT.....

EAT OR DRINK

TAKE PICTURES OR RECORD VIDEOS

RIDING THE BUS IS A PRIVILEGE,

BE SURE TO KEEP YOURS

AT THE BUS STOP:

- Walk with an adult to the school bus stop. Never run.
- Arrive at bus stop 10 minutes before the bus arrival time.
- While at the bus stop, wait in a safe place away from the road. Do not run or play while waiting.
- Wait for the bus to arrive, watch for the red flashing lights and the signal from driver to cross, and cross in front of the bus only when all traffic has stopped. Look left-right-left to make sure no cars are coming before crossing.
- If you drop something ask the driver for help.
- Use handrails when you get on the bus to avoid a fall.

WHILE ON THE SCHOOL BUS:

- Go straight to your seat. Remain seated & facing forward for entire bus ride. (Sit down, sit back, put hands on your lap)
- Talk quietly (so not to distract the driver) Use inside voice.
- If you need to talk to the bus driver; wait for the bus to stop, raise your hand, and call the driver's name.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows.
- Keep the aisles clear at all times.
- Keep hands & arms in your personal space.
- Do what the school bus driver tells you.
- Keep loose items inside your backpack or book bag.

EXIT THE BUS:

- After exiting the bus, walk (not run) 5 giant steps away from the door. Stay away from the bus wheels and watch out for moving cars.
- Watch for the red flashing lights and signal from the driver to cross, and cross in front of the bus only when all traffic has stopped. Look left-right-left to make sure no cars are coming before crossing.
- Once off the bus, go straight home so an adult will know where you are.
- Only get on and off the bus at your designated stop.
- If you drop something ask the driver for help.
- Use handrails when you get off the bus to avoid a fall.

WHAT DO THE LIGHTS ON A SCHOOL BUS MEAN?

Yellow Overhead Lights Up Top = "prepare to stop"

Red Overhead Lights Up Top = "motorists MUST stop"

Yellow Hazard Lights Down Low = "motorists proceed slow"

School Buses Are Like Traffic Signals



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What do I need to do to get my student registered to ride the bus? Each year we do require that you complete a Transportation Enrollment Form for each student. The form can be completed on our website.

What should I teach my child in order to be a safe bus rider? The school bus is an extension of the classroom. The behavior expectations on the bus are similar to the behavior expectations in the school classroom: Be **SAFE**, Be **KIND**, Be **RESPECTFUL**. In general, students need to observe the following rules: Sit down, sit back, put my hands in my lap/Use inside voice/Keep hands, body parts & personal belongings to myself/Obey the bus driver at all times.

Why do bus pick-up/drop-off times vary, especially at the beginning of the school year? At the beginning of the school year, bus routes are developed for all eligible riders, not knowing who is and who is not going to ride. Routes are constructed with the best of intentions based on known information at the time when routes are developed. However, it is only after bus routes get underway that the District learns where added efficiencies can be found. From the time bus information is made available to parents, about two (2) weeks prior to the start of school, until about late September, bus pick-up and drop-off times may vary. Parents/guardians are asked to be patient as bus drivers learn their new routes and become familiar with their new students. Once the school year gets underway, buses generally run on time with exception to weather conditions, road construction, students who become ill, mechanical problems, etc.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why aren't seat belts for passengers required to be used on school buses? The United States Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is responsible for establishing motor vehicle safety manufacturing standards and requirements for vehicles, including school buses. The standards developed for the manufacture of school buses incorporate an occupant protection design referred to as "compartmentalization" which is unique to the school bus. This standard provides a protective envelope consisting of strong, closely spaced seats that have energy-absorbing seat backs. The effectiveness of compartmentalization has been confirmed and consistently reconfirmed in National Transportation Safety Board and National Academy of Sciences studies. School safety standards have been adopted into the Michigan Vehicle Code which exempts large buses, over 10,000 pounds, from seat belt requirements for passengers. Drivers of buses are required to wear seat belts because the driver is located in the front of the bus with no energy-absorbing seat back in front of them, and as such, are not protected within a compartmentalized space like the passengers on the school bus.



I live in a mobile home community or an apartment complex, where will the bus pick-up and drop-off my child? For safety, buses generally pick-up and drop-off at "group stops" just off from major roads and highways. Buses generally do not weave in and around mobile home communities and apartment complexes due to the volume of pedestrians and confined spaces. Most often, bus stops are centrally located to all students within a specified area. Whenever possible, bus stops are created to encourage students to approach and depart the bus to the front of the bus in the bus driver's line of vision.