

SOUTH LAKE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
23101 Stadium Blvd.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
586-435-1622



Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PUPIL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT?

The mission of the transportation department is to provide the safest and most efficient transportation we can for our students. We have a staff of professionally trained and certified school bus drivers who use the utmost care in bringing our students to and from school each day. Our administrative and office staff strive to provide prompt and courteous services to every student who rides a bus.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION?

The South Lake Schools Board of Education has approved transportation for students living the following distances from school:

Kindergarten	½ mile and beyond (unless a major street must be crossed).
Grade 1	1 mile and beyond (unless a major street must be crossed).
Grades 2-5	1 mile and beyond
Grades 6-8	1 ½ miles and beyond

Anyone with questions concerning a child's eligibility to ride should contact the Transportation Department at 586-435-1622.

Once the exact number of bus riders is known, the locations, times and/or runs may change. Parents will be informed of all changes as they occur.

HOW DOES MY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT GET TO SCHOOL?

Kindergarten students (living in an eligible area for transportation services) will catch the bus at the regular bus stop servicing their area. They will be dropped off at the same stop at the conclusion of their school day.

Kindergarten students must be met at the bus stop by a parent/guardian, or a responsible person designated by the parent/guardian, when returning from school. Bus drivers will return students to their school if this individual is not waiting at the stop. These precautions are taken to protect our students and transportation privileges may be revoked for ongoing problems.

WHERE IS MY CHILD'S BUS STOP?

Bus stops are typically located centrally within residential areas. Unfortunately, time and resources do not permit specialized and/or house pick-ups for the majority of our students. The South Lake Schools' Community Newsletter published in August will notify parents/guardians of the closest bus stop in their area.

WHAT IF MY CHILD ATTENDS PAROCHIAL SCHOOL?

South Lake Schools provides transportation services to residents attending St. Joan of Arc school. Transportation is available in the a.m., p.m. and noon hours based on the school calendar and starting/dismissal times. Students are picked up and dropped off at designated bus stops.

WHAT ARE MY CHILDREN'S RESPONSIBILITIES RIDING THE BUS:

While waiting for the bus, your child is responsible for:

- Getting on and off the bus at his/her assigned bus stop
- Riding only his/her assigned bus
- Arriving at the bus stop no earlier/later than 10 minutes prior to the published pick-up time
- Staying off lawns, porches, driveways and out of the street
- Lining up in a single file at least six feet from the curb or roadside
- Not approaching the bus until it has come to a complete stop and the door is opened
- Speaking in conversational tones
- Keeping the bus stop clean (not littering)
- Respecting others at all times.

While on the bus, your child is responsible for:

- Sitting in a seat, facing forward with no part of the body in the aisle, or out the window
- Not eating, drinking or chewing gum
- Speaking in conversational tones
- Not bringing anything other than school bags and musical instruments on the bus
- Being courteous and respectful at all times

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN WITH A CHILD RIDING THE BUS?

- Make sure all necessary paperwork is completed
- Know where your child's assigned bus stop is located

- Know what time your child is expected to get on and off the bus
- Know your child's bus number and/or driver's name
- If your child has an at-home pick up, call the transportation department when bus service is not needed
- Know the bus rules
- Make sure your child knows and follows the rules
- Be responsible for your child's safety to and from the stops of the bus
- Be respectful of neighboring homes when taking your children to and from the stop



WHAT IF MY CHILD WANTS TO USE ANOTHER BUS STOP?

Each student eligible for transportation is assigned a bus stop. For privacy and safety reasons, we do not publish that information; however, each school will have a listing of students and their assigned stops. If you are unsure of your child's bus stop, check with the transportation department at the number above.

Students must ride their assigned bus to and from their assigned bus stop. Due to overloading and safety reasons, students are not allowed to ride a bus other than their own. Parents/Guardians are responsible for transportation to and from friends' homes. In cases of emergency, a written note signed by the parent/guardian and building principal is required for students to use a different bus or bus stop.

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD BE AT THE BUS STOP?

Bus stop information including locations and approximate pickup times will be posted in the South Lake Schools' Community Newsletter within one week prior to the start of school. Special Education students will be provided that information by the driver.

The South Lake Schools Transportation Department strives to maintain as regular a schedule as possible, but weather and traffic can play a significant role in our ability to be consistent. We ask that students arrive at their scheduled bus stop no sooner than ten minutes prior to the published time and expect to wait up to fifteen minutes after the published time. During the first several days of school, there may be delays as drivers and students become accustomed to their new routes. Occasionally we experience mechanical problems, which may cause the bus to be later than 15 minutes.

