
Frequently Asked Questions about Transportation- 2023-2024 School Year

Where can I find the district's policies on transportation?

APS transportation policies can be found on the School Committee page of the district's website (www.attleboroschools.com). Additional information is contained in your student's Student Handbook.

I am not happy with my bus stop. How can I get a bus stop moved?

Bus stops are placed at centralized locations based foremost on safety and then on the distribution of student households on a given route. Stops are designated to serve the greatest number of students on the route and therefore, by definition, will not be optimal for any single student. Bus stops will not be changed at the beginning of the school year. Bus stop issues will be looked at in mid-October. If you have concerns, you should contact the APS Transportation Department at 508-222-0012, extension 10005 or 10029.

There are no sidewalks where we live, and I am concerned that there is a bus stop where there are no sidewalks.

The school district does not install sidewalks. You should bring this issue up with your elected Municipal Council member or the Mayor's Office.

The bus drives right past my house. Why can't it stop at my house to pick up my student?

"Door to door" service is not possible to provide for several reasons, including safety issues (frustrations of the car drivers behind the bus) and timing (policy requires routes to be no more than 45 minutes). To be consistent and fair in placement of bus stops, we are not able to establish stops based on personal circumstances.

I have heard about walking school busses. What are they?

Walking school busses are a great alternative for parents who do not want their child walking to a bus stop or to the school itself alone. A walking school bus is when a group of parents get together and take turns walking with children either to the bus stop or to school. It is basically carpooling but on foot.

I have a reason to believe that there is a registered sex offender in my neighborhood. What do I do to make sure that the Transportation Department knows this and has taken it into account in establishing its bus stops?

Information regarding sex offenders and predators are forwarded to the transportation office by the APD and other agencies on a regular basis. We will not put a bus stop proximate to an offender's house. If you have concerns, you should contact the APS Transportation Department at 508 222-0012, ext. 10005 or 10029.

I want to use two different addresses for pick-up/drop-off locations.

Each student is allowed only one transportation address for safety and security reasons. Having multiple pick-up/drop-off locations can be confusing for staff and students and we would never want a child to board the wrong bus because of this.

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

Full size school busses are not routed into a cul-de-sac 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).
- Styles and sizes of busses make maneuvering in a cul-de-sac 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.
- The potential for property damage to mailboxes and landscaping.

Is there a specified distance that must exist between school bus stops?

Bus stops must be at least 200 feet apart. The "overhead yellow" lights on a school bus, which are used to notify other traffic of an upcoming stop must, by law, be activated at least 200 feet from the designated bus stop.

When should my child be at the bus stop to be picked up in the morning?

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

Why does my child have an assigned seat?

Seat assignments are a positive way for the ride to be consistent and safe. Per district policy, the bus driver and/or school administration have the right to assign a seat when they believe it is necessary for the safety of all students.

I would like to talk to the bus driver. Where and when is it best to do this?

The Attleboro Public Schools specifically prohibits school bus drivers from allowing any unauthorized person from riding on a school bus while transporting pupils to and or from school. Therefore, the bus stop is not the time to visit with the bus driver. Busses run a tight schedule. At the bus stop, bus drivers need to remain focused on the safety of all students on and off the bus. For the protection of all students, a parent/guardian should **NEVER** board a bus with students on board. It can be very frightening to the students and can startle the bus driver. The best time to visit with the bus driver is by appointment. You can request to speak with the bus driver's supervisor or you can request a meeting with your bus driver and the Operations Manager by contacting the Transportation Office at 508-222-0012, ext. 10005 or 10029. If an unauthorized adult boards any school bus, the Attleboro Police Department is notified immediately to remove the person.