

Who gets to ride?

Van Buren Public Schools Authorized Riders

Only Van Buren Public Schools District students can ride the school bus during the scheduled school day. Transportation is provided for elementary students who live one mile or greater from their designated school. Transportation is provided for middle and high school students who live one and a half miles or greater from their designated school. Preschool children are only allowed on designated routes.

Day Care Eligibility

Eligibility for school bus transportation is based on their resident address. Students who live in a “non-transported area”, who have a day care provider in the “transported area” qualify to ride the bus to their day care provider.

An eligible student may be dropped off or picked up at the day care provider as long as the day care address is also in the transportation area for that school. Please contact the Transportation Department as soon as possible before school starts. A five day notice is required before the student is eligible to ride to the new location.

Your child will be given an assigned pick-up location. In most cases this will also be the drop off location. The drop off location can be different than the pick-up location. If this is the case, we require that only one drop off location be used. One consistent drop off location is necessary to ensure the safety of your child and to keep the busses running on schedule.

Bus Passes

Bus passes are issued by the school for students who need to be dropped off at a place other than their own stop. Passes are not issued for social events such as birthday parties, sleepovers, etc. Bus passes are issued at the middle school for emergency purposes only. If you have an emergency, please contact your school.

If you have a question about eligibility for school bus transportation please contact the Transportation Department.

Questions

Q: I don't like where my child's bus stop is located. How are locations for bus stops determined?

A: Bus stops are located in areas that allow for a safe pick-up and assure that no one child has to walk an unreasonable distance. Many students walk up to a mile to and from school daily. Your child may have to walk up to ½ of a mile to a bus stop.

Q: Why is my bus late and will I be called?

A: Due to traffic congestion, inclement weather, mechanical problems, or other unforeseen reasons; your child's bus may be running late. During these times when unforeseen problems occur, we ask for your patience. We make every effort to make sure our busses run on time. The Van Buren Public Schools Transportation Department services approximately 5,300 students each day. It is not possible for our office staff to notify each household of a late bus.

Q: How do I request a new stop?

A: New bus stops are generally not added unless the student lives on a main road or in a new subdivision where stops may be limited. New enrollees may send in requests upon enrollment. New stops can take up to four weeks to evaluate and set up.

Schools of Choice Transportation

Students approved for Schools of Choice may utilize regular bus routes and stops providing there is space available on the bus. Space availability is defined as one having a number of scheduled riders five below capacity. Schools of Choice students must get to an existing bus stop for the school they are attending. Parents are responsible for getting their students to and from the bus stop and for their well being.



Van Buren Public Schools Transportation Department



What You Should Know about Bus Stops, Bus Runs, and Bus Routes

Van Buren Public Schools
Transportation Department
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Welcome

The Van Buren Public Schools Transportation Department has provided this brochure to familiarize you with our procedures as they relate to your child's school transportation. Parents of bus transported students will be responsible for getting their children to and from the bus stop.

What makes a good bus stop?

There are many components that make a bus stop low risk and legal. Some of these are:

- The bus must be clearly and continuously visible to approaching motorists for not less than 400 feet on roadway with a speed limit of 35 m.p.h. or greater.
- Visibility of not less than 200 feet is allowed if the roadway has a speed limit of less than 35 m.p.h..
- The bus stop must be at least 50 feet from an intersection controlled by a "stop and go" traffic signal.
- Young students must be able to wait a safe distance away from traffic.
- The stop will be located within ½ of a mile from where the student lives.
- The age of the child will be considered when assigning a location for a bus stop.

What is a bus run?

A bus run is made up of stops for one bus at one building. A school bus driver who drives to three different schools would have six different runs throughout the day. A school bus run is designed so that the driver can pick-up the maximum amount of students in the shortest amount of time. Safety and efficient use of time are the reasons our buses do not travel down cul-de-sacs or dead end streets. Sending a bus down these types of streets sometimes requires the bus to back up in order to get out. That is a potentially dangerous situation and one that the Michigan Department of Education advises against.

Bus stops are arranged so that stops are made on the right hand side of the road *whenever possible*. This limits the number of children crossing the street. No child shall cross a main street without the authorization of the Transportation Department.

Bus Route Efficiency

A bus route is designed to make maximum use of each vehicle. For instance, each high school run is combined with a middle school and elementary run to make a full route.

Efficient routes make minimal stops and travel down a limited number of streets. Unnecessary stops or delays have a ripple effect upon our entire schedule.

Students are expected to be at their bus stop at least ten minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time.

We need your help.

At Van Buren Public Schools, we strive for excellence in transportation services to you, our customers. Please help us provide safe, quality transportation for all students by discussing appropriate bus behavior with your child. Make sure you go over the *Facts and Information* brochure that covers bus rules and steps of discipline.

All students need to attend school regularly to receive the best possible education. **Riding the school bus is a privilege.** Suspension of riding privileges does not necessarily mean a suspension from school. **Ultimately parents and guardians are responsible for transportation to and from school.**

Facts About Our Bus Fleet

- 🚌 We travel 6,000 miles every day and one million miles each year.
- 🚌 Our vehicles use:
 - 153,000 gallons of fuel each year
 - 100 gallons of oil each year
 - 200 gallons of antifreeze each year
- 🚌 We transport nearly 5,300 students each day.
- 🚌 We service 11 buildings in the Van Buren Public Schools District and 29 Special Education out-district buildings.
- 🚌 We employ 108 employees including:
 - school bus drivers
 - mechanics
 - bus attendants
 - office personnel