

# FREQUENTLY ASKED TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS

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**Q: What time should my child be ready and at the bus stop?**

**A:** It is advisable to have your child at the bus stop a minimum of ten minutes prior to the scheduled pick up.

**Q: Is my child eligible for transportation?**

**A:** Kindergarten students who reside more than 0.5 miles from their home to school, Grades 1- 4 students who reside more than a mile from their home to school, and Grades 5-12 students who reside over 1.5 miles from their home to school and are entitled to transportation.

**Q: My Child's bus stop has been moved from the previous location where it has been. What can I do?**

**A:** HPS establishes a bus stop for each student within a one mile radius of the student's residence. A parent may request a bus stop change by completing our online form or, writing an email or a letter. The final decision will take into account the safety and feasibility of the transportation for all students as well as transportation policies and procedures approved by the Hudson School Committee (*on line forms on located on the Student Transportation Web page, email can be sent to [hps.busroutes@hudson.k12.ma.us](mailto:hps.busroutes@hudson.k12.ma.us) or requests can be mailed to Hudson Public Schools, Transportation Department, 155 Apsley Street, Hudson MA, 01749*)

**Q: How are bus stop locations determined?**

**A:** Each year bus routes are planned according to student enrollment. Our goal is to consistently identify bus stops on the basis of safety, efficiency and distance between stops. Generally, bus stops are located at an intersection to create efficient routes and establish neighborhood stops. Door to door transportation is not possible so in fairness to all bus stops are typically corner stops. School bus drivers do not have the authority to change bus routes or student pick-up/drop-off locations. We are not able to locate all bus stops within the line of sight of each student's home or daycare.

**Q: Who determines the placement of Bus Stop Locations?**

**A:** The contracted Transportation Provider in coordination with HPS administration determine the locations of all school bus stops.

**Q: Where is my Child's Bus Stop?**

**A:** Bus stop information will be published on this website.

**Q: What is my Child's Bus Number?**

**A:** This information may be obtained by logging onto the HPS website and selecting the School Bus Routes tab. Scroll the page and locate your child's school. Bus routes are also available at the Main offices of all of our schools.

**Q. Can my child be picked up at an alternative or Daycare Provider's address?**

**A:** Transportation to and from alternate locations (address other than that of the student's home address) for the purpose of before and after school care is available under the following criteria:

- The alternate location must be 5 days per week to be eligible for transportation.
- The alternate location must be in the student's school boundaries (Farley, Mulready, Forest).

**Q: The bus drives right past my house. Why can't it stop at my house?**

**A:** It is not possible to provide door to door transportation for the large number of requests for house pickup. More frequent stops increase route times and delay buses arrival at schools. Stops are strategically placed at street corners for safety, efficiency and equity. Higher frequency of stops may make the motoring public impatient which can result in people driving around the bus creating a dangerous situation.

**Q: I leave for work early and can't watch my child get on the bus. Can't the stop be at my home?**

**A:** In order to be consistent and equitable to all families in placement of bus stops, the Hudson Public School District is not able to establish stops based on personal circumstances.

**Q: My child would like to have friends come to our house after school. Is that allowed?**

**A:** This is not permitted. The HPS will only allow students who are assigned and authorized to ride school buses to and from their home address.

**Q: My child requires academic help after school or participates in after school activities. Will the school system provide transportation home?**

**A:** The HPS provides late bus service for transportation eligible students in grades 5-12 each Tuesday thru Thursday. Students are transported to late run bus stops within their neighborhood.

**Q: My child's bus is late/hasn't come yet what should I do?**

**A:** Weather, traffic, mechanical issues and unforeseen incidents are responsible for delays in arrival of school buses. Please know that we do everything possible to have all buses running on schedule each and every day. In the event your bus does not arrive as scheduled, we ask that you contact your school or for any excessive delays or contact North Reading Transportation by calling 978-562-5186.

**Q. I cannot see the bus stop from my house.**

**A:** It is not possible to create bus stops based on the personal situation of each parent/family. Parents are encouraged to work together within their neighborhood to have at least one parent at the bus stop in the case of our younger students.

**Q: We live on a cul-de-sac or a dead end street. Will the bus come down our street?**

**A:** Except for special circumstances, buses are generally not routed into a cul-de-sac. Buses cannot drive down a dead end street or most cul-de-sacs as backing up a bus is strictly forbidden.

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

**A:** We are not able to route buses so that all children can board the bus on the door side. We suggest if you prefer that children 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: My child is starting Kindergarten. Will the bus pick my child up in front of the house?**

**A:** The School Committee Transportation Policy states that Kindergarten students are eligible for transportation services if they live more than 0.5 miles from the school. Kindergarten students will not be dropped off without a parent or authorized guardian visible to receive the student. If no one is home to receive the student, that student will be returned to the school and the parent will have to make arrangements to pick the student up from the school.

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

**A:** Students may be required to walk up to a mile to a bus stop, however most bus stops are significantly closer to student homes.

**Q: How do I request a bus stop location change?**

**A:** Requests for changes to bus stop locations must be in writing:

- By using the Bus Stop Change Request Form found on this website. Please fill out the entire form as indicated.
- By faxing your request to North Reading Transportation at 978-567-8783.
- By submitting your request in writing to : North Reading Transportation, 2 Vickery Road, Southboro, MA 01772
- Upon receiving the request the Terminal Manager will respond in a timely manner (typically within 2 business days).
- Responses to change requests are answered in the order received.
- If you are not using the online form but submitting a written request by fax or mail please remember to include the following information: Date of request; Parent or Guardian Name; Address; Contact Phone Number; Email Address if possible; Name of Student; Grade of Student; Student's School Name; Student's Current Bus Number; Student's Current Bus Stop Location; Nature of the problem, concern or description of the change requested.
- Email your request to: [hps.busroutes@hudson.k12.ma.us](mailto:hps.busroutes@hudson.k12.ma.us)

**Q: I was not home when my child's bus came; will it come back?**

**A:** In most cases the bus driver will make at least one attempt to drive back to a stop with a student when a parent/guardian was not there to receive them. If on additional passes there continues to be no adult available to receive the student then the student is returned to their school. It is very important for parents/guardians/caregivers to be available to receive their children.

**Q: But the walking route is not safe. Who do I contact about that?**

**A:** If you believe an unsafe situation exists, address your concerns to the transportation office, with a "Request to Review Bus Stop" form. Staff familiar with the area and the traffic patterns will evaluate your concerns. If a further evaluation is required, the Hudson Police Safety Officer and School Administrators will be consulted. If unusual hazards are identified, bus transportation will be provided.

**Q: Since you have walk zones around schools, can I assume that my child is safe walking to the school (or those walking to bus stop location), if they take the most direct or reasonable route?**

**A:** No. It is impossible for our Transportation vendor or administrative staff to assess the safety of every possible walking route to a bus stop or a school. Every family may have a different definition of "most direct or reasonable route". Even more important, what is "safe" varies from child to child. It is very important that you assess your child's age and maturity before permitting him or her to walk unaccompanied to school or a bus stop. Keep in mind that children younger than age 9 or 10 often do not make good decisions regarding traffic safety and generally should be accompanied by an adult or responsible older child. Regardless of the child's age, if the child's behavior or maturity suggests that he or she will be unsafe without adult or other supervision, or if the parents have any concerns about the conditions on the route, parents should provide that supervision on the walking route and/or at the bus stop.

**Q: My Child should have special transportation and does not what can I do?**

**A:** Eligibility for door to door transportation is based upon a student's IEP. Transportation must be included in the student's IEP. If it is not, special transportation is not provided. The parent should start by contacting the school their child attends to begin the process.

**Q: My Child has a medical condition and requires transportation. What can I do?**

**A:** You must contact the nurse at your child's school. Our nursing staff members will assist parents in the process necessary to apply for medical transportation. A process is followed and a review/determination of medical eligibility is made.