

Peters Township School District: TRANSPORTATION

Frequently Asked Questions

The bus goes right down my street. Why can't the bus stop at my house?

Bus stops are centrally located for all students. In most cases we try to use intersections which are easy to locate and where motorists are more alert to pedestrians. The District attempts to keep the number of stops minimized thus keeping the buses moving and reducing ride times. Stopping at every driveway inconveniences the motoring public causing them to become impatient trying to get around the bus and compromising safety.

I can't see the stop from my house. Is it legal? Can't the stop be closer?

Unfortunately not everyone will be able to see the stop from their house. The state maximum walking distance for high school is 2 miles from driveway entrance to bus stop on public roads and 1 ½ miles for elementary. We transport approximately 4,700 school students each day. It is not feasible to put all the stops in sight range. Parents must use good judgment by either going to the stop with the child or working with other families in the area to support safety.

Who is responsible for student behavior at bus stops?

The District is responsible to determine safe stop locations. Parents are responsible for their child's behavior at the stop. If inappropriate behavior is reported to the bus driver, they will turn this information over to the school for investigation.

Who handles discipline on the bus?

The driver is the authority figure responsible for enforcing the safe transport rules. Bus safety rules are included in each student handbook, posted on the bulkhead in each bus, and on the District's website. The driver can handle minor discipline problems speaking to students or reassigning seats. More serious issues are addressed at the school by principals. Misconduct forms may be submitted to the school by drivers.

How will I find out my child's bussing information for the new school year?

Each summer, usually by the third week of August, tentative schedules detailing their child's bussing information are uploaded into PowerSchool for public school students. The non-public student transportation schedules will be sent in the mail. This includes school, stop location, time, and bus number.

Is it possible to transport my child to or from a daycare rather than my home stop?

Yes this is possible; however, the daycare must be within the district boundary. The Department will not travel outside the district for childcare purposes. Additionally, we encourage as consistent schedule as possible. It is important that your child know where they are going each day if it is a part-time service. Drivers cannot be responsible for knowing your child's schedule.

My child is the only student at the stop. Should I call when he/she is not riding?

This is helpful, especially in the morning if the bus is going out of the way. Your call saves mileage and time so that the bus route may run more efficiently. Typically it is not necessary to call in the afternoon since the bus is at the school to pick up other students.

I do not plan to regularly use transportation but want my child kept on the list. Is there a procedure I should follow?

This is a common issue with private/parochial students. If your child is the only one at the stop and will be riding rarely, we ask that you notify our department to have your child listed as "will ride when calling". The bus will only come to your stop if you need service. You may call the day before or that morning if you allow ample time. Our phone is manned beginning at 5:30am.

When the bus is running late, do you call to inform the parents?

In most cases there simply is not enough time for a delay of less than fifteen minutes. In the case of a breakdown, our focus is on getting a replacement vehicle to service the students as quickly as possible, prior to sending the call out. In inclement weather, you as a parent are always the best judge on when to bring your child back home.

How long is my child's trip to school allowed to take once they board the bus?

There is no time limit set in Pennsylvania; however the District goal is a maximum of 45 minute ride time as a guide for schools in our district boundary. Private/Parochial students may experience a longer ride time depending on how far and how many students are attending.

I want to send my child to a private school. Where can I send them and have bussing service?

The school you select must be a not-for-profit school located within ten miles from the closest District border. Be aware that your child may experience a long ride depending upon how far and how many other students within the District are going to that school.

Why is my child's private school combined with another school?

For operational efficiency, we sometimes combine schools or transfer students. We combine schools to eliminate duplication of service. Transfers occur by utilizing a centralized point to reduce ride times.

What should I do if I move during the school year?

You must provide proof of residency to the school of your change of address. The school will notify the transportation department. Please allow 3-5 working days for new bus assignment. Your PowerSchool account will reflect when the change has been made. If you move outside the school district boundary and wish to have your child remain at that school, there is no transportation provided.

There is split custody for my child. Can I get him/her assigned to two different buses?

Yes we can. Please fill out and return the Alternative Transportation Form ([ATTCHMENT LINK](#)) to our department. We will determine an alternative schedule. Both homes must be in the same school attendance area for transportation.

I would like to add a school bus stop closer to my house. What should I do?

Your request must be submitted in writing to the transportation office via postal or e-mail for review, or your request will not be considered. Unfortunately not all request can be honored The District does comply with all requirements of the "Hazardous Roads" Act.

My child is a full day kindergarten student at a private/parochial school. Why are they offered only one-way transportation?

Non-public families are entitled to the same service as the public school. Peters Township students are only provided one way service; to school for AM kindergarten and from school for PM kindergarten. We allow you to select either AM or PM. The only exception for two-way transportation is if an older sibling is riding both ways AND there is space available on the vehicle.

I do not have a way to transport my kindergarten student midday. What should I do?

Contact the school directly, they may be able to assist you in finding a car pool or daycare arrangements.

How can my child ride home on another bus?

We discourage this from happening. Requests if absolutely necessary should be for childcare requirements only. Additional students riding cause disturbances in seat assignments and may create crowding issues. If your child must ride another bus, call the transportation department for approval stating the bus your child needs to ride, school, date and student he/she needs to ride home with. Additionally, the school should be notified via note or phone call.

My child did not get off the bus at our stop. What should I do?

Please contact the bus garage at 724-941-4850 EXT 6010 OR 6012 and they will contact the driver as soon as possible.

How do we retrieve personal property of homework left on the school bus?

Drivers check their vehicles after each run for any possible items or students that could be left on the bus. Drivers are instructed to bring any left items to the front of the bus and return to owner the next day. Immediate needs for a left item contact the transportation office to arrange for pickup.

How should I find out information about school closings and delays?

On occasion, weather conditions or other unexpected circumstances may make it necessary for school to be delayed or cancelled. The safety of our students is always paramount in this decision-making process. Peters Township School District has developed a layered approach to disseminating closing/cancellation/delay information. A web-based telephone notification system is the primary vehicle used for the communication of weather-related cancellation or delay information, as well as other emergency or crisis-related messages. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their contact information is correctly registered and up-to-date in our system. Information is also posted on the District website and submitted to the local television stations.

Deciding to Close or Delay

Staff members are out very early in the morning to evaluate road conditions when bad weather hits our area. Their observations are evaluated by the Superintendent, along with information from local municipalities, police, road maintenance crews, and the National Weather Service. While we know conditions can change quickly, our goal is to make a decision about delaying or canceling school by 5:30am, since some of our high school students and staff are on the road by 6:00 A.M.

Decisions Can Change

Sometimes, weather will take a serious turn for the worse and a delay will become a cancellation. In some situations bad weather conditions will not arise until after the 5:30am deadline and communications issues become a particular challenge. We recommend parents should monitor communications on an on-going basis throughout a morning when weather is a factor for continual updated information.

My Child goes to a non-public or private/parochial school. Which closing/delay schedule do I follow?

As a Peters Township District Resident, using district transportation you will **ALWAYS** follow the District transportation schedule. If your school is delayed but Peters is not the bus will run as scheduled. Please check with your individual school for their procedures in the event of this situation. Not all schools have staff on-site if they are delayed. Parents would be responsible to transport their child to school if on a delay.