

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
ON  
DAY CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION**

Due to increased route time constraints and limited seat availability, the St. Lucie School District has recently been faced with the difficult choice of discontinuing service to day care centers and other care providers or otherwise revising the options available to parents for transportation. We are pleased that for the 2011-2012 school year we can offer **limited** school bus service to some qualified non-profit day care centers and to other caregivers. We are unable, however, to serve students on more than one bus. We have prepared the following Frequently Asked Questions that may be helpful.

**My child needs to ride two buses, one from home in the morning and a different bus in the afternoon to day care. Why can't we have this privilege?** Parents must make a decision between bus service from home and bus service to a qualified aftercare program. The district will not be able to pick up students at home on one bus in the morning and then take them to another location on a different bus in the afternoon. This would require using two different buses and reserving two different for our students. This is not financially, logistically, or spatially feasible at this time.

**My house and my child's daycare center are on the same bus route. Can my child get on the bus at home in the morning and get off the same bus in the afternoon at the daycare?**

Yes, as long as the same bus serves both locations, two different stops are allowed after proper paperwork has been received.

**I work. How can I make sure my child is going home to a safe location in the afternoon?** If you need your child to go to day care in the afternoon or another location for after-school supervision, either you can drive your child to school in the morning or you can let them get on the bus in the same location in the morning that they will be going to in the afternoon. For example, if you need your child to go to Grandmothers in the afternoon, you can drop them at Grandmother's house in the morning and they can ride the bus from there or you can take them to school and they can ride to Grandmother's in the afternoon. If your child attends day care, you can also let them get on the bus at the day care center in the morning and ride back to the day care in the afternoon.

**What if I only need them to go to another location a few days a week?** Again, we are unable provide service for children on more than one bus. They will need to go to the same location five days per week.

**I work in another school zone and I would like for my child to be taken to the day care near where I work. Is that possible?** Transportation can only be offered to locations within the zone where the student lives.

**I would like my child brought to my place of work. How can I get a bus stop near where I work?** The safety of your child is our most important priority. We cannot make bus stops in commercial areas for safety reasons.

**My former wife and I have a Court Order for Shared Custody. We need our child delivered to both locations, depending on the day of the week and our schedules. How can we**

**request this?** A Court Order does not require that the school district provide two buses for your child. You will need to select one location for the bus service and pick up your child from that location after they are delivered. Again, there are not enough buses to reserve children more than one seat. The alternate bus would be underutilized one week or day and overcrowded on another.

**My child goes to the Boys and Girls Club. How do I request this transportation?** The St. Lucie School District and the Boys and Girls Clubs have a partnership that allows us to jointly sponsor several programs both on school sites and in other locations. If you provide the school or transportation department with a written request for your child to be transported to a Boys and Girls Clubhouse or KidStop, the district will offer 5 day service only. Only children who are enrolled in the host schools may attend that site's morning or after care programs, with the exception of Green Zone KidStops.

**Is there a form I can fill out to request bus service from or to somewhere other than my house?** All schools and qualified day care centers will have forms that you can complete to request transportation service. You can also call the Transportation Department and we will mail or fax you a form. Should you have any questions, please contact our routing office at 340-7185. Only selected daycares are served and seats are extremely limited.

**What if my situation changes and I no longer need my child to go to another location?** If you complete the same form, we will make arrangements for a bus to or from your home within a few days. Please give us as much notice as you can to arrange for a bus route for your child.

**What happens if I want my child to go to a friend's house on a Friday to spend-the-night?** We have always allowed a signed note from home, and then initialed by the principal or assistant principal, as permission slips for these occasional requests. However, if the bus is at capacity, the "courtesy" rider cannot ride.

**REMEMBER YOUR CHILD MUST BE REGISTERED FOR RIDERSHIP FOR A BUS STOP TO BE CREATED HIM OR HER. CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL TO BE SURE OR ON OUR WEB SITE [www.stlucie.k12.fl.us](http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us)**

**NO PRE -K OR KINDERGARTENERS ARE ALLOWED OFF THE BUS UNESCORTED. PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE THERE TO MEET THEM. THEY MUST TELL THE DRIVER THEY ARE IN KINDERGARTEN, IF HE OR SHE DOES NOT KNOW THEM. IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR OLDER CHILD TO BE LET OFF UNESCORTED, LET THE DRIVER KNOW AND TELL YOUR CHILD TO INFORM THE DRIVER, TOO.**

**REVIEW THE BUS STOP AND BUS SAFETY RULES WITH YOUR CHILD. THANK YOU**

**NORTH COUNTY DISPATCH 429-6213    NORTH COUNTY BUS BARN 429-6204**

**SOUTH COUNTY DISPATCH 785-6618    SOUTH COUNTY BUS BARN 785-6602**