

TRANSPORTATION TIPS FOR PARENTS

For the first two weeks of school, please pin a note on your primary grade child's clothing with the following data: Name, Bus #, Bus Stop, emergency phone number, and Teacher's Name.

Remember, only children living over 2 miles from their schools are eligible for transportation. Your child must be registered for transportation, please see your school's data specialist or visit our website at www.stlucie.k12.fl.us

If you change addresses during the school year, you must notify the school with proof of address, who in turn notifies the Transportation Department in order for your child to be authorized to ride a different bus or board at a different stop. If you move out of the zone your child's school is in, transportation cannot be provided.

Children must ride the same bus for morning pickup and afternoon delivery. Children cannot be picked up at home by one bus then delivered to a daycare after school by a different bus.

Please fill out daycare forms and bus registration cards completely with correct emergency information. Update as needed. Only certain non-profit daycares are serviced by school transportation.

Review the bus safety rules with your child. This is urgently important with younger children. These will be on the back of the bus registration card your child brings home. Please stress safe bus behavior.

Please be at the bus stop area for both AM and PM runs five minutes before arrival time. Remember, Kindergarten and pre-K children will not be left at unattended stops. It is at the driver's discretion to determine if older children are safe to disembark unescorted. Tell your child to let the driver know if they are not to get off the bus without someone there to meet them. There may be days when a different driver is behind the wheel.

During the first week, there will be "unclaimed" child pick up centers at the North, South, and East Bus Compounds. During the school year, children who cannot be dropped off at their stop can be picked at the South Bus Compound in St. Lucie West or the North Compound in Fort Pierce.

Notes from home that are approved by the school are required for "courtesy" riders seeking one time transport on an unassigned bus and are granted based on seat availability.

Bus Stops for will be centrally located for all eligible riders in your area at the safest location. Please expect an approximate one-half mile but no greater than 1 mile travel distance from home to bus stop.

State law dictates that it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure safe travel to and from the bus stop and to provide necessary supervision while at the bus stop. (FS 6A-3.0121). See below for full copy.

We cannot create bus stops in commercial or business areas due to safety concerns. We avoid putting bus stops where there are turn lanes or at apartment complex entrances due to potential traffic hazards. Due to budget restrictions, we route our buses on primary roads and streets, trying to be both safe and efficient.

Bus stop information is available on our website www.stlucie.k12.fl.us and Transportation will call your registered home number prior to the first day of school with the most updated bus stop information for your child. You may also call our School Bus Hotline at 772-340-4849 beginning August 15, 2011.

Remember, during the first few days of school, bus arrival times may vary as routes and riders are adjusted, please be patient. Route change requests cannot be taken until after Labor Day and all children are registered.

Your important phone numbers are 785-6618 south dispatch and 429-6213 north dispatch. These are direct lines into busing dispatch, a very busy office running almost 400 buses. Please give your bus at least a ten-minute grace period before calling. If you cannot reach dispatch, try 785-6602 or 429-6204, our administrative line.

On occasion, a different bus or driver will pick up or deliver your child. This is due to the inspection schedule for buses and substitute drivers covering absences. **If a child is not to exit the bus unattended, he/she must inform the substitute driver who otherwise would not know.**

Visit our website at www.stlucie.k12.fl.us for bus stop information.

6A-3.0121 Responsibility of School District and Parents or Guardians for Students Who Are Transported at Public Expense.

(2) The school district shall exercise additional specific powers and responsibilities as follows:

(c) The district shall inform parents, guardians, and students at least annually in writing of their responsibilities and related district policies as follows:

1, To ensure the safe travel of their students during the portions of each trip to and from school and home when the students are not under the custody and control of the school district, including during each trip to and from home and the assigned bus stop when the school district provides bus transportation.

2, To ensure that students ride only in their assigned school buses and get off only at assigned bus stops, except when the district has approved alternative buses or arrangements.

3, To ensure students are aware of and follow the district's adopted code of student conduct while the students are at school bus stops and to provide necessary supervision during times when the bus is not present.

4. To ensure that, when the physical disability of the student renders the student unable to get on and off the bus without assistance, the parent or guardian provides the necessary assistance to help the student get on and off at the bus stop, as required by district policy or the student's individual educational plan.

Specific Authority 1001.02 FS. Law Implemented 1001.02, 1001.42(4)(l), 1003.21(1)(e), 1006.21 FS. History—New 3-26-66, Amended 9-17-72, Repromulgated 12-5-74, Formerly 6A-3.121, Amended 11-15-94, 11-26-06.