

The Houston County School System Transportation Department provides approximately 15,000 students with service to and from 38 schools. The mission of the Transportation Department is to deliver students to school and home in a safe and efficient manner, ready to learn each day upon arrival at school.

1. Who can ride the bus?

Children who live more than one and one-half miles from their home school or who live in a hazard area are provided bus service. Service is provided from designated bus stops, and any student may walk to the stop closest to his or her home.

Bus service for students attending special education classes outside their home schools will be provided by the Houston County Board of Education (HCBOE) as indicated on the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Parents may ride as chaperones on field trips if the school authorizes them to do so.

2. How are bus stops determined?

Bus stops are assigned by the nearest practical route if the distance to the school is one and one-half miles or more. Stops are designated by the Transportation Department and are placed at specific locations based on distance to the next stop and safety of the location for pickup. Normally, stops are placed one-tenth of a mile apart and at intersections.

The bus driver cannot change bus stops. Any requests for changes or additional stops must be made through the Transportation Department. A staff member will survey the area and notify the parent of the decision. This procedure usually takes about 10 days.

3. Can the bus wait for students to come to the bus stop?

Students should be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the scheduled pickup time. Once a bus has departed a stop at the designated time, it

must proceed to the next scheduled stop before picking up students.

Safety factors prohibit drivers from making unscheduled stops to pick up latecomers. This procedure applies to all designated stops, including school loading zones.

4. What types of training do school bus drivers have?

Our system has an outstanding safety record. All school bus drivers in Houston County have successfully completed a minimum of 44 hours of training, including 26 hours in a classroom and 18 hours of behind-the-wheel training. This includes 12 hours of driving without students and 12 hours of driving with students. In addition to passing the Commercial Drivers License test, all drivers must pass a road test. All drivers receive current, nationally-recognized instruction in student management.

5. Who is responsible for discipline on the bus?

The bus driver has complete charge over the students on the bus. The rules of conduct are posted on each bus, and the driver reviews them with the students at the beginning of each school year. Students who continue to violate the rules will be referred to their principal. The principal has the ultimate responsibility to discipline students whose bus behavior is dangerous or inappropriate. The principal may suspend a student's riding privilege if it is deemed necessary.

6. What are the bus rules?

Students should: respect themselves and the rights of others; follow the driver's directions the first time they are given; stay in their seats; keep all body parts and objects in the bus; refrain from pushing, shoving or fighting; and refrain from eating, drinking, chewing gum, smoking or spitting. Radios or electronic devices are not allowed on the bus. Riders are to adhere to HCBOE Policy JCD, governing student conduct.

7. What should students do if the bus does not show up on time?

Mechanical breakdowns occur from time to time, causing buses to run late. When this happens, the Transportation Department dispatches a backup bus as soon as possible. Students should remain at the bus stop, as the route will always run. Parents may contact the bus shop for the bus status. If there is a delay of more than 20 minutes during the afternoon run, parents will be notified by an automated telephone system explaining the cause and estimated time of delay.

8. Can a student ride a different bus in the afternoon?

Any request for an individual student to ride home on a bus with a fellow student or to a different address than the home of record should be referred to the principal who will issue a bus pass which is to be presented to the bus driver upon entering the bus. Approval for these requests will be made on an individual basis. This service cannot be provided for large groups such as birthday parties, scouts, etc. Students in the Special Education program should make requests directly through the Transportation Department.

9. What items may not be brought on the bus?

Safety standards require that no students bring on the bus any article which might create a hazard. Such articles include weapons of any kind, breakable or sharp objects, balloons, animals or insects. Band instruments and school projects can be transported if they can be held in the student's lap. Items that take up seat space needed for other students or that block the aisle or emergency door may not be transported.

10. Who answers questions involving school bus transportation?

Many questions can be answered at school. Each school has a copy of its bus schedules, and bus routes are posted on the HCBOE Web site, www.hcbe.net on the Transportation page. Concerns about student discipline should be referred to the school principal.

Questions on the status of requests for Special Education transportation should be directed to the Transportation Department. Questions that cannot be answered by the schools should be directed to the Transportation Department:

- ◆ Perry Routes, 988-6125
- ◆ Warner Robins Routes, 329-2218 ext. 4
- ◆ Special needs, 329-2218 ext. 2
- ◆ Zoning, 329-2218, ext. 7
- ◆ Training, 329-2218 ext. 3.



Quick Facts	2010-2011
Children transported	15,475 students transported twice daily
Bus routes	181
Total # Buses	232
School Bus Stops Daily	6,840
Bus Drivers	191
Monitors	60
Miles Driven Daily	10,980
Area Covered	Houston County, 379.8 square miles
Extracurricular trips	3,685 trips in 2010-2011



Mission

Our **mission** is to produce high-achieving students.

Vision

Our **vision** is that our system will be world class.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Mr. Tom Walmer, Chairman
- Dr. Charles (Toby) Hill, Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Skip Dawkins
- Mrs. Helen Hughes
- Mr. Jim Maddox
- Dr. Marianne Melnick
- Mr. Fred Wilson

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Robin Hines

Director of Transportation

Mr. Frank Scott
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Warner Robins, GA 31093
(478) 329-2218



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TRANSPORTATION



2011 - 2012