

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BUS ROUTES

School bus transportation is provided for students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school or in an area designated as hazardous by the Illinois Department of Transportation. In partnership with District 202, First Student provides transportation service for our regular education routes and Septran provides transportation for our special education routes.

***Q. The bus drives right past my house. Why can't it stop at my house? I can't see the bus stop from my house.***

While Plainfield School District would love to provide every child with door-to-door service, it is just not possible to do so. The number of bus stops on a route impacts the length of time our students are on the bus and the number of buses required to provide transportation services. Stops are centrally located throughout subdivisions to serve as many students as possible. Every effort is made to ensure that no elementary child would walk more than 1/10 of a mile, and middle/high school students would not walk no more than 4/10 of a mile.

With over 20,000 students requiring transportation, we are not able to position a stop so parents are able to see it from their home. Stops are located at street corners or intersections because this is the safest stop location due to the expectations of motorists.

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

Bus stops may be up to 1 ½ miles from the student's residence as directed by Section 105 ILCS 5/29-3 of Illinois School Code. Stops in District 202 are far less than 1 ½ miles from student's residences.

***Q. We live in a cul-de-sac. Will the bus come down our street?***

Except for special education circumstances, buses are generally not routed into a cul-de-sac or dead-end street. Cul-de-sac stops are considered unwise for the following reasons:

- Cul-de-sac stops create blind spots often causing students to enter or exit in a danger zone around the bus (at a corner stop or street curb stop, they enter/exit outside the danger zone)
- Different styles and sizes of buses make maneuvering in cul-de-sacs difficult
- The rear of the bus has potential to swing around close to the sidewalk
- Parked cars and other obstacles create road hazards that may not be seen until entering the cul-de-sac and at a point of no return
- Backing up a bus when students are on board is strictly forbidden
- Property damage to mailboxes and landscaping

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

We are not able to route buses so that all children can board the bus on the door side. If parents choose, it is allowable for children to 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. Why is my child's bus late?***

Weather, traffic, driver absenteeism, maintenance difficulties and unforeseen incidents are responsible for delays in arrival of school buses. Please know that we do everything humanly possible to have all buses running on schedule. In the event your bus does not arrive as scheduled, contact First Student at 815-726-0033 for regular education routes, or Septran at 815-609-7725 for special education routes. Please

allow 10 to 15 minutes before calling. If necessary, the District Transportation Department can be reached at 815-436-7800.

***Q. Why can't you call when you know the bus will be late?***

There are as many as 60 to 65 students on some routes, and up to 100 separate routes. It would be impossible to contact everyone in such a short time frame and many parents are not home or are waiting at the stop for their child.

***Q. My child is starting Kindergarten. Will the bus pick my child up in front of the house?***

There are no special laws or requirements for transporting students enrolled in kindergarten. Plainfield School district chooses to provide home stops during mid-day routes, when only AM or PM Kindergarten students ride the bus. Full day Kindergarten students ride to and from school from the corner bus stops with all elementary students in their area.

***Q. Can I have my child bused from a day care provider?***

Yes, District 202 will provide busing to day care providers if they are in your attendance zone and are within an area that qualifies for transportation. A signed alternate transportation form (completed annually) must be on file with the transportation office for a student to be assigned to a stop other than their home stop. A student may be assigned to one address other than their home, however it must be for every day of the week. The student may be assigned to a different stop in the AM than they are in the PM, as long as it is for everyday of the week. Forms are available on the district web site at PSD202.org.

***Q. What are the guidelines for a 50/50 residential custody situation?***

The law specifies that Illinois school districts are only required to transport children to the primary residential address the child is registered with, provided the address is eligible for transportation. The district will follow the same guidelines as a day care provider for our families that have a 50/50 residential custody agreement. Busing will be provided if the guardians live within the school attendance zone and are in an area that is eligible for transportation. The school board approved this procedure to transport children to an address other than their own, as long as it was in the same attendance zone, and it was the same address 5 days per week. The address can be different in the AM than it is in the PM. This procedure will ensure the safety practices necessary to track students for emergency purposes.