

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Dear Parents,

Each bus driver and employee of the North Boone School District Transportation department takes their job very seriously when transporting one of the most precious cargos of the District, your children. In order for the team of drivers to fulfill this responsibility in a safe, timely and organized system it is important to understand some of the process involved. We look forward to working with you in providing a safe and happy experience for your child. Please call us any time you may have questions, concerns and/or suggestions. We welcome your calls.

### **Q. Is my child eligible for Free Transportation?**

The Illinois State School Code sets the guidelines for the transportation of students. Under those guidelines districts are required to transport students at no additional fee who live 1 ½ miles or more from the school they attend. The State of Illinois has also qualified specific areas under the 1 ½ mile distance for transportation as well, however these areas must have met certain Hazardous Criteria guidelines. – Should your child not qualify for free transportation, **the yearly cost is set** (see list below) whether or not a student rides full-time or part-time: all of the year, or just part of the year. Assignments are based on space availability, and are accepted on a first come first served basis. **The full amount is to be paid at the time of registration.** We will not accept monthly payments. We can tell you if your address qualifies by calling 815-765-2655.

On or before August 4, 2011:

- One child—\$370
- Two children—\$470
- Three or more children—\$520

After August 4, 2011:

- One child—\$420
- Two children—\$520
- Three or more children—\$570

### **Q. Are there multiple Pickup and Drop-Off Addresses?**

Multiple pickups and drop-offs are not permitted. There will be ONE address for transportation to and from school. This means that a set AM and PM schedule, **all five days each week** must be in place. AM and PM addresses can be different **provided they are consistent throughout the entire week.** We may consider making an exception in an emergency-only situation; however this must be done only with approval from the Transportation Office. In the event a situation occurs that would require the child to come or go to a different address not normally scheduled, it would be necessary for you to provide transportation or have someone you have designated through the school office to pickup or drop off your child. In all events of transportation changes, the Transportation Office must be notified so that we can relay, to the driver, the whereabouts and safety status of each child assigned on his/her route. **The**

**School Board has instituted a fee for changing the scheduled drop off and pick up for your child this year of \$25 per occurrence beyond the one-time per semester allowed by policy.** Please keep this in mind when you call to change your stop information.

**Q. Can my child ride on any Bus?**

Drivers are required to transport only the students in which are assigned on their route sheet unless otherwise instructed by the Transportation Office. You may request in writing(Only for a special occasion) giving your permission for your child to ride with another student, however it must be approved and signed by the principal **AND cleared through the Transportation Department** assuring that the bus will not exceed capacity. Any and all students riding **MUST be regularly scheduled on a bus.**

**Our Guidelines:**

<b>BUS CAPACITY</b>	<b>GRADES K-6</b>	<b>GRADES 7-9</b>	<b>GRADES 9-12</b>
66	66	49	44
72	72	52	47
77	77	55	50

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

The higher frequency of stops makes the motoring public impatient. This results in people driving around the bus, a dangerous situation. It also delays the bus by increasing the number of stops and makes the student ride time longer. Stops are placed to be convenient for groups of students in the subdivision.

**Q. When your child is not riding the bus?**

When your child is sick or you plan to take and/or pickup your child, please contact the Transportation Department at 815-765-2655, and if possible, give prior notification to the driver. This will help us greatly in timing the route for the remainder of the children who are riding the bus.

**Q. What time will the Bus come to pick-up or drop-off my child?**

After registration we can begin building routes for the coming school term. When this process is completed we can then give you a better idea on an approximate time of the bus stop schedules. When possible, time permitting we may mail this information directly to you. If you have not received notification 2-3 days prior to the start of school feel free to call us at 815-765-2655 with your Childs name, school and Grade level. We can also be reached at [busbarn@nbcusd.org](mailto:busbarn@nbcusd.org).

There are many factors which play into the time your bus will arrive such as, children who are absent, children who are not on time for the bus, road conditions and repairs, the number of miles covered in the route, and weather conditions. Occasionally all of the situations mentioned could happen within one route, which will greatly effect the time. If your child is not out waiting for the bus, but normally rides everyday the Driver may honk once or twice, wait a minute or two (traffic permitting) and then go on if the child is not in sight. If your child misses the bus you may need to transport him or her to school.

We ask that you have your child outside and ready to board the bus 10 minutes prior at the beginning of the school year, and then 5 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time once it has been established. In extreme weather conditions it is understandable to have the child under shelter, but please be ready to send them quickly to the bus when it arrives.

We ask as a courtesy that you call when your child will not need to be picked up. You may call 815-765-2655, 24-hours a day to leave a message.

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

Except for special education circumstances, buses are not routed into a cul-de-sac. 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-sac 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
- Property damage to mailboxes and landscaping

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

This is a safety issue. Parents are responsible for the safety of their children to and from bus stops and are particularly encouraged to accompany young children.

We are not able to route buses so that all children can board the bus on the door side. We recommend that children 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.

It is the parent's responsibility to get the child to and from the bus stop. It is the District's responsibility to give the child a safe place to be picked up and dropped-off. Unless the needs to cross a 4-lane highway or a raging river (for example), how children get to the stops is not the District's responsibility ( per state board of education decisions on appeals from the parents.)

**Q. My child carries a large musical instrument and/or heavy backpack. He is the only student using the stop. It needs to be closer to our home.**

Bus stops are centrally located for all students along a route. Bus stops are not changed to accommodate one or more students because that may displace other students further from their home.

**Q. I leave for work early and can't watch my child get on the bus. Can't the stop be at my home?**

In order to be consistent and fair in placement of bus stops, District 200 is not able to establish stops based on personal circumstances. The higher frequency of stops can make the motoring public impatient. This results in people driving around the bus, or take chances passing the bus, a dangerous situation. It also delays the bus by increasing the number of stops and makes the student route time longer. Stops are places to be convenient for groups of students in the subdivision.

**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 each and every day. In the event your bus does not arrive as scheduled, contact North Boone C.U.S.D. #200 Transportation at 815-765-2655. **Please allow 10-20 minutes before calling.**

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

There are as many as 50-60 students on each bus. 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. Kindergarten students are eligible for transportation services if they live more than 1.5 miles from the school. Parents of kindergartners and special education are responsible to meet their child's bus each day or designate a responsible individual to be with their child during pickup and drop off times.

**Q. Why is there an address stop on the route if buses don't make home stops?**

Address stops may occur for a special education student on a regular route, or as a mid-point on a long street, or four lane road.

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

Bus stops may be up to ½ mile from the student's residence. Stops in District 200 are normally less than this from a student's residence.

**Q. My child has to walk past the residence of a convicted sex offender or vicious criminal.**

Traffic conditions are the primary factor the Transportation Department uses for establishing and evaluating routes and stops. Parents are responsible for the safety of students going to and from the school bus stop and while waiting for the bus.

**Q. I still don't feel comfortable. What recourse do I have to get the stop changed?**

The first step will be to call Transportation Office with concerns. We will make sure that you get a "Bus stop change request form" so that you may put your concerns in writing to us. A "Bus stop review" will then be conducted by the Director of Transportation. They will then respond to your request in writing as well as call with the results of their evaluation. They will also forward the results to the Superintendent and School board, which approve Districts bus stops. If you would like to appeal the results of the evaluation, you may request a review from the Business Service Committee of the school board.

The transportation department can be reached by phone at 815-765-2655 or e-mail: [busbarn@nbcusd.org](mailto:busbarn@nbcusd.org).

**Q. What procedures do I need to follow if I move?**

Please notify the school and bring the proper documentation to the school so we can update all residential data and fill out a new transportation request form. The school will notify transportation about the move and updated transportation information will be sent to the school so the parent/child can be notified. This process may take up to 2 business days.

**Q. How does moving within the district affect my child's transportation?**

If your new address is in the same school boundary your child will be bussed if the distance is over 1.5 miles and/or if walking is declared hazardous.

If your new address is in another school boundary: Enroll your child in an available classroom at the home school of your address. Your child will be bussed if the distance is over 1.5 miles, and /or if walking is declared hazardous.

Keeping your child at his/her original school: Parents will be responsible for transporting if in a bussing zone.

If the District requests your child remain at your original school. Transportation may be provided if over 1½ mile.

**Q. What happens if I request or my child is placed at school other than his/her home school?**

A: If this is by request, you will be responsible for transportation outside the school boundary.

B: If this is by the District's request, the child will be bussed if the distance is over 1.5 miles and/or if walking is declared hazardous.

**Q. Does someone have to be present with your child at the bus stop?**

The bus stop is a parental responsibility. Each parent must make the decision for the safety and security of their child.

**Q. How many sitter address changes can I make? What if my child is a walker but needs transportation to the sitter's house?**

You can make **one (1) address change per semester, or two (2) per school year as long as the change is within the original school boundaries.** Additional changes that need to be made will result in a **\$25 fee being charged.** A bus adjustment form needs to be completed and turned into the school office one week prior to the change of address. Any student who is in the walk zone but needs a student transported to a sitter will have to pay the transportation fee of \$370 for 1 student, \$470 for 2 students, \$520 for three or more. This will have to be paid up front in full before we can start transportation services.

**Q. What happens if I my child misses his/her bus?**

Each bus route has a schedule to maintain. The driver does his/her best to maintain a timely schedule. A bus driver should arrive at approximately the same time each day. Bus riders need to arrive at their assigned bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to bus arrival. In the event your child misses the bus, the parent is responsible for transporting your child.

**Q. What are the rules for the bus stop?**

A. Corner stops:

1. Be ready five minutes before the scheduled arrival time.
2. Be courteous to other students.
3. Stand back 5-10 feet when bus is approaching the bus stop.
4. Get on bus in orderly fashion, no pushing.

B. House bus stop

1. Be outside with your child 5 minutes before scheduled arrival time.
2. Any bus equipment is on the bus for those requiring it.
3. Parent will seat belt or hook harness up. Driver will make adjustments necessary.