

LOYALSOCK TWP SCHOOL DISTRICT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

Q: Are school districts required to transport students?

A: With the exception of charter school students, Pennsylvania law does not require a school district to provide transportation to its students.

Q: How does the district determine eligibility for transportation services?

A: The distance from the student's residence to the school must be at least 1.5 miles or greater for elementary students, or 2 miles or greater for secondary students, or be located on a "PennDOT" designated hazardous road.

Q: May the district suspend busing services for a child?

A: Yes. Transportation is a privilege, not a right.

Q: How far may a child be asked to walk to a school bus stop?

A: Pennsylvania law allows a school district to ask a child, regardless of age, to walk up to a mile and a half to a bus stop. The mile is measured by public roads and does not include any private lane or walkway of the child's residence.

Q: How long may a child be required to ride on a bus?

A: There are no time limits set by Pennsylvania law or regulations. This is a local decision, based on geography, population density, etc.

Q: Who is responsible for students at school bus stops?

A: Parents are solely responsible for their child(ren) at school bus stops. It is important that parents monitor their child's behavior and ensure that their child(ren) wait for the school bus in a safe location away from the road.

Q: Why can't the bus come further into my subdivision or stop closer to my home?

A: Bus stops are established with consideration given not only to safety, but may also be placed in a central location to service a group of students in a subdivision or specific area.

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

A: A higher frequency of stops causes longer ride times for students and makes the motoring public impatient. This results in people attempting to drive around the bus, which creates a dangerous situation.

Q: Can my child go home with his/her friend after school?

A: School bus procedure does not provide for students to ride home with friends. If a student attempts to ride a friend's bus home, the student will be denied access. Additionally, it is unlawful for a student to get off the bus at an unassigned stop without prior approval by the Transportation Department.

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

A: The length of the school bus limits the maneuvering of it on a cul-de-sac or in tight places. Cul-de-sac stops are considered unwise because they often create blind spots, causing students to enter or exit in a "danger zone" around the bus. Also, 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.

Q: Does the school district provide transportation to/from multiple residences for students whose parents are divorced or separated?

A: Pennsylvania law states school districts must offer transportation services to/from both parents' homes, if the student's parents evenly share physical custody pursuant to a court-approved custody agreement and both parents reside within the school district boundaries.

Q: Does the district provide transportation services to/from locations other than the student's primary residence?

A: Transportation is not provided to addresses other than the student's primary residence, such as child care providers, relatives, friends, etc. Exceptions may be granted in the case of an extreme emergency and require approval by the Transportation Department.

**The district provides transportation for students attending the YMCA School Age Care Program and the Loyalsock Township After School Program.*

Q: How are discipline issues on the bus addressed?

A: All school rules and regulations apply to a school bus or van. The driver is authorized to assign seats to students as they deem necessary. The driver will report all violations of safety regulations or conduct to the Transportation Coordinator and/or the building principal.

Q: What is the carry-on policy?

A: PennDOT mandates that the interior of a school bus must be free of any objects that can cause injury. All objects must be secured and the aisles and emergency exits must be free and clear of any object. Musical instruments and class projects may be brought on board if it can be held on their lap. If it does not fit on their lap, provided there is room, a student may place the instrument on the seat or on the floor between them and the window.