



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Denver Public Schools (DPS) Transportation Services thanks you for your unwavering support of your child's education. Another promising new school year is upon us, and Transportation Services is committed to providing the most equitable services to support the DPS vision of *Every Child Succeeds*.

As established by Board of Education policy, your student is eligible for school bus transportation for the 2014-15 school year. Please review your child's bus information below, and familiarize your family with the bus stop location, pick-up and drop-off times, and route numbers. Also, verify your student's start date with their respective school. Likewise, ensure your student has and uses their +Pass every day!

Note: During the first weeks of school you should expect delays in transportation. Our goal is always to ensure every student is safely picked up and dropped off every day. During dismissals, buses could be delayed to ensure that your student has boarded the appropriate bus for safe delivery home.

Collaboration and teamwork between transportation staff, students, parents and schools is vital. We are working hard to ensure a bully-free and safe environment for students on the bus and at bus stops, and we want to enlist your help as a parent or guardian. We encourage you to develop a neighborhood plan for supervision of their student at the bus stop before school, and be present to receive your student after school. We encourage your student to communicate with their bus driver, bus assistant or school representative if they don't feel safe on the school bus. We ask that you impress upon your student the importance of following bus safety rules, such as staying in their seat at all times. Transportation is an extension of the school day, and supports learning outside of the classroom. While riding the school bus, students are expected to uphold the same standards of behavior as in the classroom.

For additional information regarding SchoolChoice or other transportation questions, please visit our website or call us at the numbers provided for you to the right. We hope the information provided to you in this mailer will prove beneficial as you and your families prepare for another great school year!

Sincerely,

Nicole Portee
Executive Director of Transportation

Visit transportation.dpsk12.org for up-to-date information on routes and schedules. In emergency situations, the school will be notified and will contact parents/students directly.

RESOURCES

- **School Office:** Schools are your first point of contact, and can verify student bus information in Infinite Campus.
- **Bus Dispatch: (720) 423-4624** (5:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.)
 - Bus is more than 15 minutes late
 - Student is not riding the bus
 - Missing students
 - Lost and found items
 DPS Safety & Security: (720) 423-3911 (After 7:30 p.m. or in an emergency)
- **Transportation: (720) 423-4600** transportation@dpsk12.org
 - Route & bus information
 - +Pass questions
 - General information
- **Safe2Tell®: 1 (877) 542-SAFE**
 - Report student safety concerns
- **Parent Portal: myportal.dpsk12.org**
 Parents can now access important student information, including:
 - Bus route details (bus stop location and times)
 - +Pass card usage
 - Important transportation updates
 Contact your school to sign up for Parent Portal

ELIGIBILITY

REQUIREMENTS

Transportation services are available based on eligibility criteria provided by the Board of Education.

- **Elementary School:** Students in grades K-5 must be enrolled and reside more than one mile away from their boundary school.
- **Middle School:** Students in grades 6-8 must be enrolled and reside more than 2.5 miles from their boundary school.

- **High School:** Students in grades 9-12 who reside more than 3.5 miles from their boundary school are eligible to participate in the RTD pass program.

Note: Transportation is not guaranteed. This is especially important as parents go through the SchoolChoice enrollment process each year.

EXCEPTION PROCESS

If a student needs bus transportation but does not meet the eligibility criteria set by the Board of Education, complete a Transportation exception form. An exception may be granted if there is space available. Forms are available online at transportation.dpsk12.org/eligibility. For questions contact (720) 423-4699 (M-F, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.).



Knowing when and where each child gets on and off the school bus is vital. Every transportation-eligible student in DPS who rides a yellow school bus is expected to use their +Pass every day, no exceptions. For replacements or a temporary pass, please contact your school office or Transportation Services during the summer months.

STUDENTS:

- All students must use a +Pass every day
- Scan your +Pass when you get on AND when you exit the school bus
- Students are responsible for their +Pass. Please don't chew on, break or lose your card.

HOW +PASS WORKS

1 Students place their +Pass in front of a card reader as they enter and exit the school bus.

2 The card reader will beep and turn green, confirming the +Pass was read.

3 The time, date and location of where students get on and off the school bus are immediately recorded to a secure database, accessible only by transportation and school officials.

REPLACEMENT & TEMPORARY +PASS

- The temporary pass must be obtained by the school front office and can be used for a maximum of five days. A valid +Pass replacement must be obtained.
- To replace a lost +Pass, visit the school front office.



PARENTS:

- Ensure your child uses their +Pass every time they ride the school bus
- In an emergency, +Pass allows Transportation and the schools to correctly identify which students are on the bus
- +Pass enables DPS to better maximize resources and enhance communication with parents

For more information on this program, visit transportation.dpsk12.org/pass.



2909 W. 7th Ave.
 Denver, CO 80204
 (720) 423-4600
 transportation.dpsk12.org

Like us on Facebook @DPSTransportation

Follow us on Twitter @DPSSchoolBus

**ATTENTION DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENT/GUARDIAN:
 OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF YOUR CHILD'S TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE
 PLEASE OPEN IMMEDIATELY**

IMPORTANT BUS INFORMATION

BEFORE 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

- Review bus route information (both AM & PM)
- Remember the bus route number
- Know bus pick-up and drop-off times
- Visit bus stop location(s)
- Introduce yourself to the bus staff

GETTING TO AND FROM THE BUS STOP

- Arrive to the bus stop at least 10 minutes early
- Follow the safest route to and from the bus stop
- Do not talk to or accept rides from strangers!
 - If a stranger approaches you, notify the bus driver immediately
- Board the bus at the assigned stop and time
- If the bus has left, or is more than 15 minutes late, call (720) 423-4624
 - NOTE: Buses may run late the first two weeks of school, on snowy days, or due to traffic

AT THE BUS STOP

- Respect the property around the bus stop. Don't litter or walk on planted areas
- Be ready to board the bus, and stand safely away from the curb/street
 - NOTE: The bus driver cannot sound the horn at a bus stop to alert passengers that the bus has arrived. Please be on time
- Stay out of danger zones (see image below)
- Have the +Pass ready for boarding

RIDING RIDING THE BUS

- All students must use their +Pass every day!
- Remain seated and facing forward
- Keep feet and legs out of the center aisle
- Keep all parts of your body inside the bus
- Do not save seats
- Use inside voices while on the school bus to avoid distractions for the bus driver
- Large, hazardous objects are prohibited on the school bus
- Skateboards and sports equipment must be enclosed completely in a bag

EXITING THE BUS

- Students may exit at the assigned bus stop only
- If a different drop-off location is needed, written permission must be obtained from a parent and school administrator
- Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door is opened

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS: The parent, guardian or other designated adult must meet the bus when driver instructions indicate that the student cannot be left unattended.
- All mid-day kindergarten and ECE students, must be met by an authorized guardian. Kindergarten students dismissed at the end of the day will be dropped off at the assigned bus stop with an older sibling or an authorized adult, and will not be left unattended.
- Students who cannot be left unattended, and who are not met by an adult, will remain on the bus and continue on the route. As a result, students may be taken to the bus terminal.

STUDENT BUS BEHAVIOR

- Be Respectful, Use Kind Words, Safety First
- **Serious Behavior Infractions:** Serious behaviors include: abusive/inappropriate language, fighting/physical aggression, harassment/bullying, property damage/vandalism, theft, sexual behavior, aggressively confronting transportation staff.
- **Bullying:** There is a zero tolerance for bullying within DPS. If a student is being bullied or feels unsafe, the student is asked to report any concerns immediate to the bus driver or bus assistant.

Transportation reserves the right to suspend bus privileges for after school activities and exception riders, or students with extreme behavior violations when the student becomes a safety risk to others on the bus. Students also may face consequences from his or her school in accordance with applicable Board Policy.

ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION

- **Bike to School:**
 - Wear a helmet and safety gear
 - Ride on the right/same direction as traffic
 - Look for traffic
 - Ride in a straight line
 - Stop at the end of driveways before entering the road
- **Walk to School:**
 - Walk together
 - Be visible
 - Look for traffic
 - Cross the street safely and at and at crosswalks, using sidewalks at all times
 - Obey traffic signs, signals and school crossing guards



Stop! It's the law!

- Flashing lights mean STOP
- Children are present
- Do not proceed until red lights stop flashing

DANGER ZONES

