

*The Houston County Board of Education Transportation Department provides over 14,000 students with service to and from 39 campuses. The Transportation Department's mission is to deliver students to school and home in a safe and efficient manner, on time.*

### **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.

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. 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 and drop-off. Normally, stops are placed at least 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 3 business days.

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

Students should be at the bus stop at least 5 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.

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

Our system has an outstanding safety record. All first-time school bus drivers in Houston County successfully complete a minimum of 44 hours of training, to include 12 hours in a classroom, 8 hours of bus inspection and 24 hours of behind-the-wheel training. Additionally, all drivers receive annual safety training from our staff as well as from the Georgia Department of Education.

All drivers must possess a Georgia Commercial Driver's License with Passenger and School Bus endorsements.

### **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 deemed necessary.

### **6. What are the bus rules?**

Students shall: 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. 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?**

Traffic situations or mechanical breakdowns occur from time to time, causing buses to run late. If there is a delay of more than 20 minutes, parents will be notified by an automated telephone call.

### **8. May a student ride a bus other than their assigned bus?**

Based on their home address, each student eligible for school bus transportation shall be assigned to a particular bus route and bus stop and shall ride the bus assigned to that route. Changes in stop locations or bus assignments based on personal preferences or child care are not allowed.

In an emergency situation which is approved by a school administrator, your child may receive a temporary bus pass for up to two days, provided that a note from the parent is submitted to the school for such a request. If approved, the school will provide the student with a *Temporary Bus Pass* allowing them to ride a different bus or get off at a different bus stop. Temporary Bus Passes are only to be used for one-time events and cannot be issued for recurring events. In the case that the requested bus is at capacity and cannot safely transport any additional students, the request will not be granted.

### **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 may be transported if they can be held in the student's lap. Items that take up 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 the schools. Each school has a copy of its bus schedules, and bus routes are posted on the HCBOE website, [www.hcbe.net](http://www.hcbe.net), on the Transportation page. The Transportation Department may be contacted at 478-329-2218. Concerns about student discipline should be referred to the school principal.

For questions regarding Special Education and any questions that cannot be answered by your school, please contact the Transportation Department as follows:

- Routes: 478-329-2218, ext. 0
- Special Needs: 478-329-2218, ext. 2
- Training: 478-329-2218, ext. 3.



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

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

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Mr. Tom Walmer  
 311 Bear Country Blvd.  
 Warner Robins, GA 31088  
 (478) 329-2218



**TRANSPORTATION  
 FREQUENTLY ASKED  
 QUESTIONS  
 2019-2020**

Quick Facts	2018-2019
# Transported Daily	14,061 (Twice per day)
Bus Routes	175
Total # Buses	257
Daily Bus Stops	6207 (Twice per day)
Bus Drivers	203
Monitors	59
Route Miles Driven Daily	11,916
Area Covered	Houston County, 379.8 square miles
Extracurricular trips	4938



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