



**HOUSTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

TRANSPORTATION

BY THE NUMBERS



**Over 14,000 students
transported twice daily.**



BUS FLEET

284 total buses

- 170 used for regular routes
- 114 used for spares and activities

TRANSPORTATION STAFF

> 275 total bus staff

- > 180 bus drivers
- > 70 bus monitors
- 9 mechanics
- 14 office support staff



>2.4 million miles driven yearly

– 379.8 sq. miles covered

>2,000 extracurricular trips

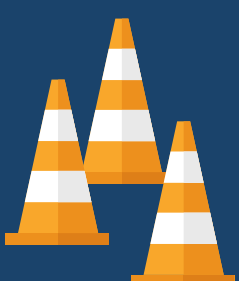


169 Bus Routes

6,293 Bus Stops

– twice a day

Diesel and compressed natural gas buses are fueled onsite using local fuel suppliers. Propane buses are fueled onsite.



SAFETY FIRST

Prior to driving bus routes, all HCSD bus drivers have a CDL and receive 44 hours of training: 12 classroom hours, 8 hours of bus inspections, and 24 hours behind the wheel.

TRANSPORTATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can ride the bus?

Board policy permits transportation for all students who live more than one and one-half miles from their assigned school. Transportation for special needs students will be provided as indicated on the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).



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. Bus drivers 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.



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.



What types of training do school bus drivers have?

Our district 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.



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.



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.



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.



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. At this time, no bus passes allowing children to temporarily ride other buses will be approved.



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.



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 HCSD website, 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.



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