



# TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BUS SERVICE INFORMATION

PASCO COUNTY SCHOOLS 2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR

## Secondary Information

### TRANSPORTATION CALL CENTER

To assist families with questions and concerns, the Transportation Call Center will be open the following dates and times:

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 4:30 pm.

During the first week of school, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 -10:00 AM & from 2:00-6:00 PM.

Call 813-794-2500, 727-774-2500, or 352-524-2500.

### Be Ready for the Bus

It is important to be standing at the bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the pick-up time on your bus pass. Please follow these directions especially if you drive your student to the stop in the morning. Routes will likely run a little late until everyone gets back in the school routine again. Please be early and be ready. It is important to keep in mind that school bus drivers are not able to engage in lengthy discussion with parents or guardians at the bus stop as we strive to maintain our bus stop schedule. Please contact Transportation bus compound or call center should you have questions or concerns you would like to discuss.

### Transportation Eligibility

Florida State Statute outlines student eligibility for school transportation. In general, students that live within 2 miles of their zoned school are not eligible for basic student transportation. It would be the family's responsibility to coordinate how their student gets to and from school. Transportation as a related service for special education students is coordinated on a student IEP or 504 documentation.

### Ridership Consistency

We certainly understand the excitement of returning to school and families driving their student in the first few days (or more)! Please consider transitioning your student to the bus as soon as possible. We want our students (and you) to be comfortable and confident when using District transportation. Ridership will be monitored and those students with bus passes that do not ride the bus will receive notification of their pass being ended. The deactivation of passes will begin in October for students not actively riding the bus.

### Bus Passes

Transportation relies on information in MyStudent to issue bus passes for students. It is important for you to ensure your student's address information is accurate and update, as needed, directly with their school. Updated bus passes will be issued and available in your MyStudent portal. You can print this screen or a photo on your student's phone will be accepted as well. Bus passes for students with an IEP or 504 can take up to 7 days to coordinate transportation. Parent Portal set-up information can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/y6nyn8b8>

### School Choice

Transportation is not provided for students that have elected to attend a school other than their zoned school. Students participating in some academic programs (e.g., Cambridge, IB, Magnet) may have alternative transportation options. This information can be provided by your student's school or by contacting Transportation.

### Bus Compound Contact Info:

Bus routes each have an alpha-numeric identifier. The beginning letter identifies the servicing bus compound you should call if needed.

C Routes (Central)	727-774-0520
D Routes (East)	813-794-0560
N Routes (Northwest)	727-774-0540
S Routes (South)	727-774-4410
W Routes (West)	727-774-0400
Z Routes (Southeast)	813-794-0500

**Single Bus Pass**

Transportation eligible students may only be issued one bus pass based on the student's address of record. This pass is for consistent transportation; Monday-Friday; morning and afternoon; to the same stop location. The District is unable to accommodate requests for bus stops to multiple addresses.

**Two Week Route Consistency**

It is District practice to restrict route changes for the first two weeks of school (e.g., adding stops, changing stop times). This allows students and families to build a consistent back to school routine. While there are situations that require some limited, specific changes to occur, we will work to minimize the impact as much as possible. Route changes will begin to be processed beginning the third week of school.

**Late Buses**

If a bus is running at least 15 minutes late, an automated phone message will be sent to the identified contact for the students who are assigned to that bus; using the primary phone number listed in my student. If the bus arrives late to the school, Transportation notifies the school office of their late arrival. Students will not be marked tardy due to their bus arriving late to school.

Messages of this nature will not be sent out during the first two weeks of school.

**Maintaining Your Student's Emergency Contacts**

The information recorded in MyStudent will be used to communicate with you or your designated emergency contacts in the event of an emergency at school or on the bus. It is vital that you check periodically and update this information with the school. This information can be verified through your MyStudent portal.

**Student Health and Wellness**

Masks are optional in Pasco County Schools and on school buses. Please do not send your student to school if they are not feeling well.

**General Bus Safety and General Information**

Buses are equipped with lap belts and students are expected to wear them at all times.

Band Instruments or Large Projects: Students may bring these items on the bus as long as they can be held in their lap or between their legs. Also, they shall not protrude into the aisle or another student's space. Large projects cannot contain materials that could be harmful to other students such as hazardous liquids, glass, or other sharp items, etc.

Any item left on a school bus will be collected by their bus driver and held for your student on the next school day. Students should check with their driver first for any lost items. Items of obvious monetary value are turned in to the bus compound at the end of the day. We are not able to have a bus return to a stop for items left on the bus. Contact the transportation compound should assistance be needed.