

OXFORD SCHOOLS BUSING INFORMATION

Transportation Department- 248-969-1888

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INFORMATION FOR KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

All-day kindergarteners that qualify for transportation are expected to go to the neighborhood pick-up and drop-off points with other elementary children.



Safely transporting children to and from school is of paramount importance. We exercise extreme care in the selection of our drivers to ensure they have the knowledge, attitude, and skills required to provide a safe transportation system. Regular maintenance of our vehicles is performed at the bus garage by skilled technicians to ensure every bus in our fleet is mechanically sound before allowing children to board. Your child's safety is of utmost importance to our transportation staff.

Bus transportation to and from school is provided for all students who live beyond the walking distance. Regulations have been established to govern bus usage in order to avoid disruptions in transportation or school schedules, to prevent unnecessary damage to the vehicles and, most importantly, to protect student's health and safety. Parents and students are urged to review all the following responsibilities and regulations carefully. Buses are operated for the convenience and protection of all students, and they are expected to abide by all transportation regulations if they wish to maintain bus riding privileges.

The ride to school can set the tone for the whole day for your child. You can take comfort in knowing that the school bus is the safest form of transportation to school. Our bus drivers are highly skilled drivers who undergo continual training and schooling to keep them updated to make your child's ride a safe one.

Parents or older siblings should assist kindergarteners to and from these stops. If your kindergartner does not have an older sibling to walk home with, we expect to see a parent or another adult at the bus stop to receive them. Pick-up and drop-off times can change as route changes occur. **Bus pick-up and drop-off times and locations for your child can be found in your Powerschool account under the transportation tab beginning one week prior to the start of the first day of the school year.**

It is important to note that kindergarten-aged children:

- Lack knowledge of traffic risks.
- Have little interest in monitoring vehicle movement and positions.
- Do not recognize a vehicle is a dangerous machine.
- Do not understand the need to be seen.
- Are cooperative and follow procedures if reminded at the time of the action.
- Have selective vision and hearing.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

On days when the weather conditions may prevent the safe travel of buses to transport students to and from school, the district will close. School closings are communicated in several ways:

- The district's SchoolMessenger program will send a phone call, email, and text message through the information provided in Powerschool.
- Local news channels 2, 4, and 7 will broadcast school closings.
- An emergency alert will appear on the school website at www.oxfordschools.org.
- It will be posted on Oxford Community Schools Facebook, Instagram, and X page.

*When Oxford Community Schools is closed due to weather, transportation is also canceled for special education center programs.



OXFORD SCHOOLS BUS SAFETY INFORMATION



PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Thoroughly discuss the bus rules and student code of conduct with your children.
- Make sure your children arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before pick-up time.
- Have children properly dressed for weather conditions.
- Provide necessary protection for your children when going to and from the bus stop.
- Accept joint responsibility with the school authorities for the safety and proper conduct of your children.
- Appear in person as necessary with school officials to discuss disciplinary action.
- Provide transportation for your child if he/she loses riding privileges.
- As a courtesy to the driver, have your student inform the bus driver when there is going to be a planned absence, especially if you live in a remote area.
- If a student is at an individual remote stop and does not ride the bus for four consecutive school days, the stop will be discontinued until the Transportation Department receives further notification.

BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE BUS:

- Be sure you are at least 10 large steps away from the front of the bus, so that the driver can see you from head to toe.
- Look both directions before stepping into the roadway.
- When getting off the bus, stop at the edge of the bus and look both directions.
- When traffic is clear, proceed across the road but keep checking for traffic as you walk.
- Never run.
- Never cross behind the bus.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. The bus will not wait for the arrival of passengers.
- Observe all safety precautions while waiting for the bus. Stand at least 10 feet off the roadway and remain at this point until the bus has come to a complete stop, and the driver opens the door. Board the bus in a single file line. Do not push or shove if it is a group stop.
- Avoid trespassing on or causing damage to private property.
- Avoid being noisy at the bus stop.
- Never run to or from the bus.
- Never crawl under the bus.
- While on the bus, remain seated properly at all times.
- Be courteous and respectful to the driver and fellow students.
- Keep your hands to yourself, and do not take other students' property.

WHEN WAITING FOR A SCHOOL BUS:

- Stay a safe distance from the roadway, at least 10 feet away from the edge of the road.
- Wait in a straight line.
- No pushing or horseplay.
- Walk to the bus after the door opens and the air brake is set (makes a whooshing sound), not before.
- Use the handrail when boarding the bus.
- Children are responsible for their behavior at the bus stop, but adult supervision is always helpful.



ALTERNATE BUS STOP REQUESTS

Many of our students go to addresses that are not their primary residence, either for daycare or split families. To assist the Transportation Department in making sure that your child rides the correct bus, please use the Alternate Bus Stop Request Form found on the website under the Departments tab within the Transportation page menu. A new form is needed at the beginning of every school year, and during the school year if changes are made.

SCHOOL OF CHOICE BUSING

School of Choice parents interested in busing must contact the Transportation Department every school year, prior to the beginning of school, even if your child rode a bus the previous year.

BUS MISCONDUCT/DISCIPLINARY REFERRAL PROCEDURES

When bus misconduct tickets or disciplinary referrals are issued, the appropriate school administrator will review the ticket in accordance with the code of conduct and determine appropriate disciplinary action. Behavior on the bus is defined by the same rules as behavior in the classroom.

Two types of tickets/referrals may be issued:

1. A half (1/2) warning ticket
2. A full ticket or disciplinary referral

When a half (1/2) ticket is issued the bus driver gives the ticket to the student to take home and have their parent sign and return the ticket to the driver the next school day. The dispatcher in the Transportation Department also calls the parent to let them know a ticket has been issued. A copy of the ticket is also sent to your child's principal.

When a full ticket or disciplinary referral is issued, the dispatcher at the Transportation Department will email the ticket to the appropriate principal or dean of students. The administrator meets with the student to issue the ticket and also determines the level of discipline that the student receives. Discipline, including bus suspension, is determined by school administrators, not the Transportation Department. The driver does have the right to assign seats for unacceptable behavior.



WHAT IS STOPFINDER?

Stopfinder is the all-in-one parent app that allows your school district to share your student's transportation schedule, announcements, and more. Stopfinder works with your district's transportation software to provide you the most accurate schedule information as quickly as possible.

Stopfinder is secure and only for registered users. Your school will send you an invitation providing access to log in to the Stopfinder app. Invitations will be sent through email.

Stopfinder is available anytime for Stopfinder subscribers. View your student's schedule from your mobile device. Share student schedule with caregivers and family members and view announcements and notifications in the Stopfinder Message Center.

Check your email for a Stopfinder invitation and visit the App Store or Google Play to download Stopfinder.

Questions about Stopfinder? Visit <https://stopfinder.com> or contact, transportationdepartment@oxfordschools.org, 248-969-1888

