

Transportation FAQ

How are bus stops determined?

The Board of Education policy sets the mileage requirements for all students in Simsbury. Kindergarten students may walk up to .5 mile to a bus stop/school. Kindergarten students living in the walking area of each elementary school are eligible for a bus assignment during their kindergarten year only. Grades 1-6 students may walk up to .75 mile to a bus stop/school. Grades 7-12 students may walk up to 1.5 miles to a bus stop/school. Distance is measured from the street edge of a student's driveway to the street edge of a bus stop or school driveway.

Are kindergarten students picked up and dropped off at their home?

When kindergarten was a half-day program, the policy was to pick up and drop off at their home on the mid-day route, when only kindergarten students were riding the bus. Kindergarten students were always picked up in the morning and dropped off in the afternoon at the neighborhood bus stop when they rode with the rest of the Grade 1-6 population, and this is the procedure we continue with for full-day kindergarten.

What are the policies for dropping off elementary children with no parent present at the stop?

Kindergarten students whose parents/guardians are not present at the time the bus drops off will be brought back to their school. Kindergarten students who have an older sibling with them are allowed to exit the bus without a parent present. Students in Grades 1-6 are allowed to exit the bus without a parent present.

Why does my child have to cross the street to either board or exit the bus?

We make every effort to route our buses so that there is a minimal amount of crossing in front of the bus; however, it is sometimes impossible. There is a specific safety procedure in place for drivers, parents/guardians, and students. We ask that both you and your child wait for the driver to signal the time to cross. The mirrors on the bus have been placed so that the driver can view the traffic behind him/her and coming toward him/her. **NO ONE SHOULD MOVE UNTIL THE DRIVER SIGNALS.** The drivers are trained in this procedure, and this procedure is in effect on all streets in Simsbury.

What are the policies regarding seat assignments on the bus?

The principals of the elementary schools originally set the policy for students to sit in sequence, grades K-6, with the youngest at the front of the bus; Salter's continues to follow this seating arrangement. There are no seat assignments on the middle/high school buses, unless there are behavior issues.

Why are some routes reversed in the afternoon, leaving students who are first on in the morning to be last off in the afternoon?

Morning bus routes start at the furthest point out, and work their way in toward the school. Afternoon routes start with the stops closest to the school and work their way outward. In some cases, the starting and ending bus stops are similar in distance from school and the afternoon can mirror the morning, thus allowing the students who were first on in the morning to be first off in the afternoon. Routes that have stops along very busy streets, such as Hopmeadow and Bushy Hill, need to follow a specific sequence in order for students to be picked up and dropped off on their own side of the street. With other routes, it would be very impractical, time-wise, mileage-wise, and fuel-wise, to go from the school out to the furthest point and work back inward again.

Will you transport my child to his/her daycare provider?

Wherever possible, we will transport children to authorized stops on our regularly traveled routes. According to Board of Education policy, we will not re-route buses to pass daycare providers that are not already on the bus route. Daycare providers must be located in the same elementary school district your child attends in order to receive bus transportation. Some daycare centers provide their own van transportation; please check with your center.

Who should parents/guardians call with transportation questions?

- Call the Transportation Office for bus stop, routes, bus drivers or safety questions
- Call Salter's also for bus driver or safety questions or questions regarding the location of a bus or student during its route
- Call your child's school for questions regarding student behavior issues or other student-related issues