

I can't see my child while walking to the bus stop, can the bus stop be moved closer to my house?

Unfortunately, not everyone will be able to see the stop from their house. We transport over 4,000 school students each day. It is not feasible to put all the stops in sight range. Parents must use good judgment by either going to the stop with the child or working with other families in the area to support safety. Bus stops are not changed for this reason.

The bus goes right down my street. Why can't the bus stop at my house?

Bus stops are centrally located for all students. In most cases we try to use intersections which are easy to locate and where motorists are more alert to pedestrians. The District attempts to keep the number of stops minimized thus keeping the buses moving and reducing ride times. It is not feasible to stop at every driveway. Also, stopping at every driveway inconveniences the motoring public causing them to become impatient trying to get around the bus and compromising safety.

There are intersections and/or Cul-de-sacs where the bus can turn around. Can the bus come into my plan and pick up the students?

The District avoids entering plans where the bus must turn around at an intersection or a Cul-de-sac for the following reasons:

1. Cul-de-sac stops create blind spots often causing students to enter or exit in a danger zone around the bus. Turning around at an intersection requires the driver to back up the bus. This is the most dangerous maneuver for a school bus to make and is avoided if safer options are available.
2. Different styles and sizes of buses make maneuvering in cul-de-sac difficult.
3. The rear of the bus has the potential to swing around too close to the sidewalks and lawns.
4. Parked cars and other obstacles create road hazards that may not be seen until entering the cul-de-sac and at a point of no return.
5. Property damage to mailboxes and landscaping.

The District does evaluate neighborhoods annually for improvements and can/will reroute vehicles to enter as deemed safe. Although we make every effort to make stops as convenient as possible, convenience is not always the safest move for our students, community members, or drivers.

I think my child's ride is too long, can the bus schedule be changed?

Transporting over 4000 students over a large area (28 square miles) will require some students to have a longer bus ride. Due to logistics, some students will be first on the bus in the morning and last off in the afternoon. Routes are based on population distribution, efficiency, and safety. There are no time limits set by Pennsylvania State Law or regulations. Bus stops and schedules are not changed for this reason.

I think my child has too far to walk to the bus stop, can the stop be moved closer to my house?

Pennsylvania State Law allows a district to ask a child, regardless of age, to walk up to a mile and a half to a bus stop. The average walking distance to a school bus stop for students in the Plum Borough School District is less than 1/4 of a mile. No children in the District are required to walk 1 1/2 miles. Bus stops and schedules are not changed for this reason.

There is a bus stop for elementary students near my house, why doesn't the middle school/high school bus stop at this stop?

The buses run on three bus schedules; Elementary, Middle School, and High School. The schedules and stops are designed based on ridership, safety, and efficiency for each schedule. Additional bus stops are not added for this reason.

My child has to walk up a steep hill, can the bus stop be moved closer to my house?

Bus stop locations are based on an analysis of both safety and efficiency. If possible, bus stops are not located on steep hills where it may be difficult for the bus to stop or start. Bus stops are not changed for this reason.

My child is the only student at the stop this year, why can't the stop be moved to my house?

Stops are evaluated each year. Once stops are established, stops are not changed for the convenience of an individual or a small number of students or families. Although stops are reviewed each year, it is important for reasons of safety and efficiency to maintain as much consistency as possible from year to year. Bus stops and schedules are not changed for this reason.

My child has to cross the street to the bus stop, can the bus stop be changed to my side of the street?

Some students will have to cross streets and roads to a bus stop. Children should wait to cross the road to board the bus until the bus is at a complete stop with red lights activated. Bus stops and schedules are not changed for this reason.

We had a bus stop closer to our home last year, why was the stop changed?

Stops will change year to year depending on the number of students in each residential area and grade levels. Bus stop locations are based on an analysis of both safety and efficiency.

Our neighborhood has no sidewalks, can we have an additional bus stop so our children do not have to walk to the existing stop?

Due to the large number of streets and roads in the Plum Borough School District that do not have sidewalks, it is necessary for students to walk on streets or roads.

I want my child to ride a different bus or exit the bus at a different stop on the trip home today to go to a friend/relative's house. Can I write a note for this to happen?

Due to the nationwide driver shortage, bus routes are being and have been condensed to have the maximum safe capacity of students on a route. Due to insurance regulations, behavioral issues, and other factors, students will not be permitted to bring a note from a parent to ride a different bus or exit the bus at a stop other than their own. Building principals will not have the authority to override this policy either. The only person(s) who can override this policy are in the transportation department.

IS MY DISTRICT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO MY CHILD'S CHARTER SCHOOL?

Yes, in some circumstances. Pennsylvania school districts are required to provide transportation to children attending charter schools located within their district and charter schools that are within 10 miles by the nearest public highway of the school district's boundary on the dates that the charter school is in session. School districts are not required to provide transportation to charter school elementary students, including kindergarten students, if they live within 1.5 miles by public highway to the charter school or to secondary students if they live within two miles of the charter school unless walking to school is determined to be a safety hazard by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), or the school district provides transportation to students within those distances to their own school district buildings.

I want my child to attend a daycare, what do I need to do?

Parents who wish for their child to attend a daycare for before or after school care can do so and will be permitted to have transportation as long as the daycare is in the attendance zone of the school your child attends. Please complete the daycare stop request form located on The District Transportation website located on the left hand side of the page. **Please note, daycare stops may take up to five (5) days to be reviewed and put into place. Please ensure you are completing the form early enough for your childcare to take place.**

I have split custody of my child and need transportation from both houses, what do I need to do?

Split custody can be arranged for students with the following guidelines:

1. Both parents must live in the district. Transportation to another school district will be the responsibility of the parent who resides outside of The Plum Borough School District.
2. Both parents have provided proof of residency within The Plum Borough School District.
3. Both addresses are within the attendance zone of the school of attendance (In-district schools).

After ensuring you have met all the requirements, please fill out the custody stop form on The District Transportation website, located on the left side of the page. **Please note, custody stops may take up to five (5) days to be reviewed and put into place. Please ensure you are completing the form early enough for your childcare to take place.**

Why does my child have to be at the bus stop ten (10) minutes before the scheduled stop time?

Due to many factors that can be out of our control, buses can run early or late. Because of this, we ask students to be at the bus stop ten (10) minutes prior to avoid students missing the bus. Should a child miss the bus because they are not at the stop early, we may not have the staff or ability to send someone back for your child.

I have an emergency and need my child to ride home with another student. Should I tell my child to get on the other bus?

No. Our buses are strategically routed and set to capacities based on the number of students in a specific area. For this reason, our drivers do not have the ability to approve a student riding the bus. Parents who have an emergency situation must contact the transportation department for approval. These will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The Transportation Department. A written request from the parent making the request must be sent to transportation@pbsd.net as well as written confirmation from the parent who will be receiving the student. **Without this consent, no student will be released to another parent.**