TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS

2025-2026 PROCEDURES

Early Childhood Programs: 651-982-8300

Thank you for inquiring about transportation to preschool. We offer a bus ride to or from preschool for students who are 4 years old (or older) by September 1, 2025. Limited transportation is available using existing bus routes. If a bus route travels by your home location, there is an opportunity to use the service. You will receive information in mid-August designating your bus stop. State law states school districts are not required to provide transportation to preschool-aged students.

Transportation:

- Students attending a morning session of preschool would be able to ride **to** preschool.
- Students attending an afternoon session of preschool would be able to ride home **from** preschool.
- Students attending a full-day session of preschool would be able to ride **to and from** preschool.

Arrangements:

Families need to complete a *Transportation Request (attached)* and submit the form to the Early Childhood Programs. Any bus change requests **MUST** be submitted to Early Childhood Programs (651-982-8349 / earlychildhood@flaschools.org) – not the school or transportation department.

Limitations:

- Children riding to school need to be at the bus stop when the bus arrives **with an adult** over 18 years old present to escort the child onto the bus. This includes daycare providers.
- An **adult over 18 years old**, meeting students after riding home, needs to physically be at the arrival destination to escort the child off of the bus. This includes daycare providers. If parents/adults are not visibly waiting outside at the bus stop to escort the child off of the bus, the child will continue on the bus route and potentially return to the school for family pick-up.
- **To guarantee transportation for your child the first day of school this transportation request must be received by August 20, 2025.**
- Requests made after August 21, 2025 will be contacted within 1-2 weeks of the request to begin service. *Keep in mind this may be after school has already started.*
- Riding the bus is a **privilege**. Students with repeated behavior problems will be denied the privilege of riding the bus. Families will be notified if behavior on the bus is a problem.
- We will make every effort to keep Early Childhood Programs students at the front of the bus.
- No food or beverages may be consumed on the bus for safety reasons.
- Parents are allowed **only one** designated bus stop.

Please discuss the following with your child.

- Students riding the school bus should:
    - Always stay in their seats while the bus is moving. Every effort will be made to have early childhood students in front of the bus and near the bus driver.
    - Use inside voices.
    - Keep the identification tag on their backpack for the bus driver's reference should it be needed.

Early Childhood Transportation Procedure

I. The School District will provide students enrolled in early childhood with age-appropriate school bus safety training. Upon completing the training, a student shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of at least the following competencies and concepts:
   a. appropriate conduct while on the bus;
   b. the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
   c. procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus.

II. Parent and Guardian Involvement
   a. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities for Transportation Safety.
      i. Become familiar with District rules and policies, regulations, and principles of school bus safety.
      ii. Assist students in understanding safety rules and encourage them to abide by them.
      iii. Recognize their responsibilities for the actions of their children.
      iv. Support safe riding and walking practices and reasonable discipline efforts.
      v. Assist students in safely crossing local streets before boarding and after leaving the bus.
      vi. Support procedures for emergency evacuation and procedures in emergencies as set up by the School District.
      vii. Respect the rights and privileges of others.
      viii. Communicate safety concerns to Early Childhood Programs staff.
      ix. Support all efforts to improve school bus safety.
      x. Have their children to the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives.
      xi. Failure to be present at pick up/drop off stop could result in dismissal of busing privilege.

III. Conduct on School Buses and Consequences for Misbehavior
   a. Rules at the Bus Stop
      i. Get to your bus stop 5 minutes before your scheduled pickup time. The bus driver will stop but not wait for late students.
      ii. Stay away from the street, road, or highway when waiting for the bus. Wait until the bus stops before approaching the bus.
      iii. After getting off the bus, move away from the bus.
   b. Rules on the Bus
      i. Follow the directions given by the driver.
      ii. Sit in your assigned seat facing forward.
      iii. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
      iv. Keep hands, feet, and your personal belongings to yourself and within your assigned seat.
      v. Do not bring any weapons or dangerous objects on the school bus.
      vi. Do not eat or drink on the school bus.
   c. Consequences
      i. 1st offense – Verbal/written warning to parents & discussion with the child at school of expectations.
      ii. 2nd offense – 1 – 3 school-day suspension from riding the bus.
      iii. 3rd offense – the privilege of riding the bus could be revoked.

Transportation for children 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2026, enrolled in Early Childhood Programs is not mandated by Minnesota state law; it is a privilege. **Depending upon the severity of an incident, immediate dismissal of ridership may occur**. The safety of all the children riding the bus is our main priority.

I have read the information and discussed the guidelines with my child:

_____
Child's Name

_____ _____ _____
Parent's name (print) Parent's signature Date

All information must be provided for request to be considered.

Early Childhood Programs
Transportation Request 2025-2026

Early Childhood Programs: 651-982-8300
Return form to earlychildhood@flaschools.org / Fax: 651-982-8375

Student Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Home Address: _____
City Zip Code

Parent/Guardian: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Email address: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Children riding to school need to be at the bus stop when the bus arrives with an adult over 18 years old present to escort the child onto the bus. This includes daycare providers. Four and five-year-old preschoolers can ride the bus. If a caregiver is not present at drop-off, the student may be returned to the elementary school. Children who enroll in Half Day Preschool can ride the bus to school in the morning or ride the bus home at the end of the day. Parents or caregivers will have to transport in the middle of the day as mid-day transportation is not available. Children who enroll in Full Day Preschool have the option of riding the bus to and from school. Transportation is available for students who attend preschool at the elementary where their home address is assigned and at the Education Center for those in the Forest Lake Elementary and Forest View Elementary busing area. Students will not be assigned a bus route without all information provided above.

Pick-up address:

_____Telephone _____
(**if different from home address**, additional form required)

Drop off address:

_____Telephone _____
(if different from home address, additional form required)

Transportation Start Date: _____

School (Circle One): Education Center Lino Lakes Linwood Wyoming Columbus Scandia Forest View

Preschool Class (Circle One): ½ Day AM ½ Day PM Full day

√ Days of the Week you are requesting transportation:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
□ Pick Up	□ Pick Up	□ Pick Up	□ Pick Up	□ Pick Up
□ Drop Off	□ Drop Off	□ Drop Off	□ Drop Off	□ Drop Off
□ Pick Up & Drop Off	□ Pick Up & Drop Off	□ Pick Up & Drop Off	□ Pick Up & Drop Off	□ Pick Up & Drop Off

_____ _____
Staff member requesting Date Director of Transportation Date