Transportation
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I know if my child is eligible for free busing to their school?

A. All School Districts in Iowa are required to follow the Transportation Policies established by the Iowa Department of Education.

- Elementary school students and middle school students shall be entitled to transportation only if they live more than two miles from the school designated for attendance (boundary school).
- High school students shall be entitled to transportation only if they live more than three miles from the school designated for attendance (boundary school).

Note that the minimum distance for transportation eligibility increases at 9th Grade to 3 miles minimum distance from school.

Q. What if we do not attend a school other than our school designated for attendance, such as an in-district transfer or open enrollment?

A. Parents are responsible for providing transportation for students attending a school other than the school designated for attendance (boundary school).

Q. What is paid busing?

A. Parents may request paid busing of students who live within the Walk Zone (under two miles for elementary and middle school / under three miles for high school students from their school designated for attendance). The Transportation Department processes applications for paid busing after all applications for students who meet the transportation eligibility requirements.

Q. If I complete a paid busing application for my child, is my child guaranteed a spot?

A. No. Paid busing is offered only if space is available on an existing bus and after meeting the requirements of transporting those students who live beyond the two miles or three miles required by law. If approved for paid busing the bus passes must be purchased at the office of the school the student attends.

Q. How long does it take to process paid busing applications?

A. Unfortunately we will not know how many seats are open for a particular bus until all the applications are processed. Please plan on providing transportation for your student until you receive a letter from the Transportation Department notifying you the application is approved.
Q. Why did I receive a denial letter?
A. All applications for students who live within the walk zone are denied (under 2 miles for elementary school and middle school, and under 3 miles for high school.)

Q. My child goes to a babysitter; can he or she ride the bus to the babysitter’s house?
A. No. Transportation is not provided for before or after school care. The transportation office does verify addresses with the student’s school.