

WCS Transportation Guide for Families

Waverly Community Schools

Waverly Transportation Guide for Families *Partnering to Keep Every Student Safe*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year!

At Waverly Community Schools, we believe every student deserves a safe, positive, and respectful ride to and from school. Riding the bus is an extension of the school day and provides students with another opportunity to demonstrate responsibility, kindness, and respect for others.

Our bus drivers play an important role in helping students arrive at school safely and ready to learn. Families are essential partners in creating a successful transportation experience. We encourage you to review these expectations with your child before the first day of school and revisit them throughout the year.

Working together, we can help ensure every bus ride is safe, positive, and enjoyable for all students.

Three Ways Students Help Create a Safe Bus Ride

Ride Safely

Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Students can help by:

- Arriving at the bus stop at least **five minutes before** the scheduled pick-up time.
- Waiting at least **ten steps back** from the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver signals them to board.
- Boarding the bus one student at a time.
- Crossing the street **only in front of the bus** and only when directed by the driver.
- Remaining seated and facing forward while the bus is moving.
- Keeping hands, arms, feet, and personal belongings inside the bus at all times.
- Waiting until the bus comes to a complete stop before getting on or off.

Ride Respectfully

Every student deserves a safe and welcoming ride.

Students are expected to:

- Follow the driver's directions the first time they are given.
- Use kind, respectful language.

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- Respect the personal space of others by keeping hands, feet, and belongings to themselves.
- Use quiet voices so the driver can safely focus on the road.
- Help keep the bus clean and free of damage.

Ride Responsibly

Responsible choices help everyone have a successful trip.

Students should:

- Sit in their assigned seat, if one has been assigned.
- Keep backpacks, school supplies, and personal belongings secure and out of the aisle.
- Keep larger items, including musical instruments, safely stored as directed by the driver.
- Leave food, candy, drinks, and gum in their backpack until they arrive at school or home.
- Use electronic devices responsibly. Devices should never distract the driver or other students, and photography, video recording, and audio recording are not permitted on the bus.

How Families Can Help

Families are our partners in creating a positive transportation experience.

You can help by:

- Talking with your child about these expectations before school begins.
- Ensuring your child arrives at the bus stop on time each day.
- Reinforcing the importance of listening to and respecting the bus driver.
- Encouraging kindness and respect toward all students.
- Contacting the Transportation Department if you have questions or concerns.

When Students Need Additional Support

Our goal is always to teach, reinforce, and support positive behavior.

If a student has difficulty following bus expectations, staff will work with the student and family to help them be successful. Depending on the situation, responses may include:

- Reviewing and reteaching bus expectations
- A reminder or warning

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- Communication with parents or guardians
- Temporary suspension of bus riding privileges for repeated or serious safety concerns
- Loss of bus transportation privileges when student behavior continues to compromise safety for others

We believe every student can learn and demonstrate safe, respectful, and responsible behavior with consistent support and clear expectations.

Schools of Choice (SOC) Transportation - Partnering with Families

Waverly Community Schools is pleased to offer transportation to Schools of Choice (SOC) students whenever space is available. Because transportation for SOC students is not automatic, families must submit a transportation request each school year.

Requesting Transportation

If your family would like transportation for your Schools of Choice student, please complete the Special Transportation Request Form, available on the Waverly Community Schools website.

Please keep the following in mind:

- Transportation requests are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Requests may take up to three (3) weeks to process.
- Families will be notified once transportation has been approved and assigned.
- Once the request was approved, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to transport the student to an existing Waverly Community Schools bus stop.

Please note: Waverly transportation does not travel outside of district boundaries, and any approved requests must utilize an existing stop located within the district.

Once Transportation Is Approved

Once your student's transportation request has been approved, they may continue riding the bus as long as seating remains available on their assigned route.

Our goal is always to provide transportation for Schools of Choice students whenever possible, and we make every effort to keep students on their assigned routes throughout the school year.

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Important Information About Bus Capacity

Resident students are guaranteed transportation in accordance with district transportation guidelines. Because of this, there may be times when additional resident students enroll and available seating on a bus route becomes limited.

If a bus reaches maximum capacity and additional space is needed to accommodate resident students, Schools of Choice transportation on that route may no longer be available.

We understand that changes to transportation can be stressful for families. If this situation arises, our Transportation Department will contact you as early as possible, explain the situation, and provide advance notice before any transportation changes take effect.

Our staff will communicate with you throughout the process, answer your questions, and make every reasonable effort to continue transportation whenever possible. While transportation for Schools of Choice students cannot be guaranteed if routes reach capacity, decisions to discontinue transportation are made only when necessary to safely serve all students.

Our commitment is to communicate openly, provide as much advance notice as possible, and partner with families to minimize disruptions whenever transportation changes become necessary.

Understanding Bus Stops

Bus stop locations are carefully selected with student safety as the highest priority.

When determining bus stop locations, the Transportation Department considers:

- Visibility for bus drivers and other motorists
- Safe stopping distances
- State transportation requirements
- Traffic patterns
- Student safety during loading and unloading

Because state law requires school bus warning lights to be activated well in advance of each stop, bus stops must be spaced appropriately to ensure safe transportation for all students.

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Please remember that bus routes and stop times may require minor adjustments during the first few weeks of school as student enrollment changes. We appreciate your patience as these final adjustments are made.

Need Assistance?

If you have questions regarding bus routes, schedules, Schools of Choice transportation, or student expectations, please contact the:

Waverly Community Schools Transportation Department

☎ (517) 321-1088

We are happy to assist you.

Thank You

Thank you for partnering with us to provide every Waverly student with a safe, respectful, and positive transportation experience.

Together, we can ensure that every bus ride is a safe start and a positive end to each school day.

Sincerely,

Mashaun Trossel

Mashaun Trossel
Transportation Supervisor

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Frequently Asked Questions

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Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to request Schools of Choice transportation every year?

Yes. A new Schools of Choice Transportation Request Form must be completed each school year.

When should I submit my request?

As early as possible. Requests are processed on a first-come, first-served basis and may take up to two weeks to process.

Is transportation guaranteed for Schools of Choice students?

Transportation is available as long as seating remains available on your student's assigned route.

What happens if my child's bus becomes full?

If a route reaches capacity and seats are needed for resident students, the Transportation Department will contact your family as early as possible, explain the situation, provide advance notice, and work with you throughout the process. While we cannot guarantee continued transportation in every circumstance, we make every reasonable effort to continue serving Schools of Choice students whenever possible.