



**Summerville School District**  
18451 Carter St.  
Tuolumne, CA 95379  
209-928-4291 Fax 209-928-1602

**School Bus Transportation  
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**Q. How do I find out what bus my child will ride this year?**

A. Please call the school. Transportation releases bus routing information to the school as soon as the routes are finished. If the school does not have the information, it means that the route is not ready for public release. Please check with the school again at a later date.

**Q. I live less than one mile from my child's school, is he/she eligible for transportation?**

A. The Board policy says if a student lives less than one mile from the school then students are not eligible to ride. This can be appealed with the District Superintendent.

**Q. How is a bus stop location determined?**

A. Bus stops are located as a function of safety, neighborhood logistics, state regulations, and transportation requirements. We try to locate bus stops so as to serve the entire needs of a neighborhood for years to come. Bus stops cannot be located as a function of personal convenience or schedule. They will be placed where visibility is 200' front and rear at speed limit of 25 mph or less or 500' front and rear of speed limits of 25 mph and greater.

**Q. Can my child bring a friend home on the bus? Can they ride the bus to school the next morning?**

A. No. We cannot allow additional students not assigned to an individual bus, to ride an already full bus as a convenience. In addition to not having seating for the additional passengers, we also have no emergency data for the student in case there is an accident. Services we provide for one student, must be prepared to provide for all. Therefore, our policy is to not allow convenience riders unless it is a prearranged emergency situation.

**Q. My child missed the bus. Can I follow the bus in my car and allow my child to board the bus at another stop?**

A. If your child misses the bus, for safety reasons, do not attempt to chase, pass, or block the bus along its route. Any action taken to impede or delay the progress of an official school bus is unlawful. If possible, take a different route to a stop ahead of the bus and let your child board there. When in your car directly behind a school bus, it is very dangerous for a child to attempt to run from the car along the side of the bus to board. Nationwide, fatalities have occurred where students have fallen in front of the rear wheels of a departing bus after they jumped out of a parent's car to run up and board the bus.

**Q. My son/daughter was just going out our front door this morning and the bus driver did not wait. Why?**

A. Due to very tight time schedules and extreme traffic conditions our drivers are trained in accordance with operational policy not to wait for late students. For safety and timing reasons, students must be standing at the bus stop when the bus arrives. We do not have the latitude to wait for students to get out of the car, come out of the house, walk over from the next yard etc. Drivers must maintain safety at all times when loading students. If there are stragglers or late students loading, this increases exposure to impatient motorists, which increases the safety risk for the children.

**Q. My pre-kindergarten and kindergarten child must be accompanied at the bus stop. What do you do if I have an emergency and I cannot notify you or be there to meet my child?**

A. Arrangements must be made to meet your child. Transportation Services will attempt to deliver the student to the regular bus stop. If no one is there to meet the child we will return the child to the school and attempt to make contact.

**Q. Why does my pre-kindergarten and kindergarten child have to be met at the bus stop?**

A. As agreed by the parents upon registration in the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten program, a designated responsible individual will be available to accompany the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten student at the bus stop. A child of this age simply cannot be left alone at a bus stop.

**Q. Why doesn't the School Office call me when the bus is delayed in the A.M. or P.M.? Is there a place I can call for information about a bus delay?**

A. School buses, like any form of mass transportation, are significantly affected by many uncontrollable factors. These factors may include a shortage of drivers due to sickness or other, (weather, season, road repair/closure, traffic) conditions, run coverage, etc. When a bus is running late, the students are instructed to wait at the stop, do not go back home. If the bus is late and the student rides it to school, he/she will not be counted tardy. If the student goes home and then is taken to school, the school will count the student tardy. The Transportation Division strives to keep all our buses running as close to the published time schedule as possible. We do ask that the students arrive at least 5 minutes early to the stop location. This ensures that we account for seasonal traffic conditions and differences in individual watch settings. While we would like to notify parents of late buses, we simply do not have the resources to do so. If you feel the bus is running late, please contact the school for the latest information. Or, for an updated arrival time, please call our office at (209) 928-4291 with the bus number and route name.

**Q. Where can I get a copy of the bus rules?**

A. A copy of the bus rules is included in your Parent/Student Handbook or may be obtained in the school office. Additionally, copies of the bus rules are posted in every school bus over the entrance door and all bus drivers review the rules with the students during the first week of school.

**Q. Who can authorize a bus stop location change?**

A. As bus stops are placed as a function of safety and regulation, only Administrative staff can make changes to stop locations. Bus drivers cannot add or change bus stops.

**Q. If my child goes on a field trip do the same rules of bus discipline apply?**

A. Yes, The school bus is considered an extension of the classroom; therefore all the rules apply all of the time.

**Q. Can the school bus driver suspend my child from riding the bus?**

A. A school bus driver does not have disciplinary authority or choice of disciplinary action. A driver can only refer observed student actions (via a bus citation) to the school for due process. The School Board has an approved "Code of Conduct" which outlines and guides school based administrators as to the disciplinary action that is appropriate for each situation and grade level.

**Q. What if my child is suspended from the A.M. bus? My child rides a different bus in the P.M. What is the procedure?**

A. Many students ride different buses in the morning and in the afternoon. However, when a student is suspended from any bus that means it is a suspension from all transportation.

**Q. Who is responsible for resolving discipline problems that occur on the bus?**

A. Bus drivers attempt to correct inappropriate behavior but often it requires the intervention of a school administrator. The Principal of our school is responsible for the administration of school bus discipline;

**Q. Can a bus driver or transportation official change a bus disciplinary ruling?**

A. No. Discipline hearings are exclusively conducted and decided at the school level. While appropriate transportation and/or school staff members are often called to testify or clarify policy, final disciplinary rulings are the instrument of the Principal.

**Q. If the bus has a video camera, can parents see the tape?**

A. No. Parents may not view bus videotapes. Video recordings of school buses are additional tools school administrators and transportation officials utilize to sample the "total environment" of the bus. Our legal department has advised that due to student "confidentiality" issues, parents may not view the videotapes.

**Q. I would like to talk to my child's bus driver about a problem on the bus. How do I go about this? Couldn't I just meet the driver at the bus stop location?**

A. If you would like to talk to a driver about your child, please do not approach the driver at the bus stop. A bus driver is on a very strict timing schedule. Any extra seconds of delay at a bus stop could translate into as much as 30 minutes late arrival at school if each parent of 60 (typical busload) children talked for as little as 30 seconds. Security and safety of our driver and student passengers are of greatest concern at bus stops. Some parents get very emotional, angry and try to board the bus. Parents are not allowed on a school bus unless specifically authorized. Parents who decide to board a bus ignoring the warning of the bus driver are subject to arrest and prosecution under the law. To talk with a driver, please contact our office and request a conference with the driver. Please provide the bus number and or driver name if possible. The school will be more than happy to coordinate with Transportation Services and set up a

conference. It is important to understand that bus drivers are only available for conference between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM. Mon.-Fri.

**Q. What happens if a school bus is involved in an accident?**

A. Statistically most of the accidents that occur, involving school buses, are rear end collisions. In all but a few cases, school buses are generally hit in the rear end just before, during, or just after a pupil or railroad stop. Injuries are rare and students are for the most part only frightened. If your student's bus is involved in an accident the driver will immediately radio our office with vital information. The office will notify the appropriate emergency personnel to respond. School representative may be asked to go to the scene of the accident depending on how serious the situation may be. If your child needs to be transported anywhere for any reason by emergency medical technicians at the scene, we will notify you or the emergency contact listed on the student information card as soon as possible. If your student is not injured you will not be notified and your child will be transported to the school or home as appropriate, as soon as a release is given by local law enforcement.