



8409 LEESVILLE ROAD
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27613

PHONE: 919.870.4250

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SCHOOL WEBSITE: /WWW.LEESVILLE.ORG/

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Recent budget restraints and the restructuring of the WCPSS Transportation Department, which were made to produce a leaner and more efficient organization, have greatly reduced the number of transportation personnel available to address directly parent/guardian inquiries about transportation issues. We hope to take steps to prevent any information gaps. To do this, we are forwarding informational letters such as this one to keep you apprised of pertinent information, web addresses to provide current information regarding policies and planning factors, and contact information for personnel at our school who can assist you with answers to your inquiries. All transportation issues pertaining to Leesville Road High School students are coordinated through Sheri Golden, Assistant Principal. In order to achieve the quickest response to your inquiries, questions should be addressed to Ms. Golden via email at sgolden@wcpss.net or by telephone at 919.870.4250. Below is some frequently sought information and several web pages that can provide detailed information regarding most common transportation procedures.

The Transportation Department staff is responsible for centralized bus routing. The Transportation Department operates a three-tiered system. In the interest of operational efficiency, each driver and bus are responsible for delivering students to three schools in the morning and returning them home in the afternoon, unless precluded by the length of the run. Operating the three-tier system saves the cost of buying more buses and hiring more drivers because each bus is used to make the greatest number of runs within the time available. **All students are expected to ride the bus to which they are assigned.** These assignments are based on your address, and the transportation office will be mailing a letter to you identifying the bus route and bus stop location for your child/ren for the upcoming school year. Please note that requests to ride home with a friend cannot be granted. Parents are expected to arrange private transportation for occasional visits. Most of the bus routes supporting our school begin picking up students between 6:20 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. although some do have earlier start times according to the distance from the school. You will be better able to judge the time to be at your bus stop as the school year progresses. In order to assure safety of and accountability for, students, they will be dropped-off in the afternoon at the same stop where they were picked-up in the morning. Exceptions are addressed in the WCPSS policy R&P 7125 section, "Service to or from Before and After School Care Providers."

The process for requesting changes to bus stop locations is as follows:

1. Parents/guardians who are seeking a change to the location of the bus stop may request a change by completing a Transportation Service Request Form (R&P 7125). The Transportation Service Request Forms are reviewed and determined by the Transportation Department, not by anyone at Leesville Road High School. The specific website is listed on the second page of this letter.
2. If the request is denied by the Transportation Department, the parent may seek a review of the decision in accordance with Policy 6520, Student Grievances.

Express buses are used at some schools. The purpose of express bus stops and express bus routes is to reduce the ride time on longer routes by consolidating stops into as few stops as possible. Adding "local" stops to these routes has the effect of increasing ride time. Express bus stops are designed for students to be dropped off and picked up by parents at designated "express" bus stops. Each morning, parents are expected to accompany their children to the bus stop approximately 10 minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time and to wait with the children until students are safely on the bus. In the afternoon, parents are expected to be at the bus stop 10 minutes prior

to the scheduled arrival time, awaiting afternoon bus arrival, and to remain at the bus stop until all students have exited the bus.

Establishment of bus routes and bus stops:

Bus stops are placed no closer than two-tenths (.2) of a mile apart unless safety hazards exist. In the interests of safety and efficiency, buses will, in general, be routed on main thoroughfares, and buses will not be routed off of those thoroughfares for distances less than one-half (.5) mile except for groups of ten or more students or for students with disabilities. Buses are generally prohibited from traveling into cul-de-sacs. To the extent possible, bus stops are placed on corners. General Statute requires that a bus will pass within one mile of eligible students' residences; however, the Board establishes reduced maximum walking distances to bus stops for students as follows:

- Elementary students -- three-tenths of a mile
- Middle School students -- five-tenths of a mile
- High School students -- five-tenths of a mile
- Distances to express bus stops may exceed these maximums.

Current bus routes, stops, and morning pick up information can be found on our school's website:

<http://www.wcpss.net/school-directory/bus-routes/473.html>

Web Addresses of Interest

WCPSS Transportation Home Page –

<http://www.wcpss.net/transportation/index.html>

WCPSS Transportation General Information –

<http://www.wcpss.net/transportation/policies.html>

WCPSS Transportation Routing Information –

http://www.wcpss.net/transportation/bus_routes.html

WCPSS General Information Regarding Special Needs Transportation -

<http://www.wcpss.net/transportation/specialneeds.html>

WCPSS Transportation Frequently Asked Questions –

<http://www.wcpss.net/faqs/departments/transportation.html>

WCPSS School Board Policy 7125 - Bus Policies –

<http://www.wcpss.net/policy-files/series/policies/7125-bp.html>

WCPSS School Board Policy 7125-

<http://www.wcpss.net/policy-files/series/policies/7125-rp.html>

We look forward to a highly successful school year.

Sincerely,

Sheri Golden, Assistant Principal

sgolden@wcpss.net

(919) 870-4250