

Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding pupil transportation in South Lyon Community Schools.

Q: How long are students allowed to ride the school bus each way in Michigan?

A: There is no state law regarding the length of a bus ride. We make every effort to ensure that our runs are not longer than one hour in South Lyon.

Q: Are students allowed to stand up on the school bus or sit in the aisles?

A: Absolutely not, Michigan law requires that seating be provided for each student. Students may be required to sit two or three to a seat to better utilize capacity on the bus.

Q: How is the capacity of a school bus determined?

A: Nearly all school buses come equipped with 39" seats on either side of a center aisle. The largest buses in South Lyon have 26 rows of seats. The maximum capacity on these buses by law is 78 students. In South Lyon, we assign elementary students (K-5) to buses based on maximum capacity (3 per seat). We assign secondary students (6-12) based on 2 students per seat.

Q: How far are students required to walk to a bus stop?

A: Under normal conditions in the South Lyon Community School District, elementary students may be expected to walk up to ½ mile and secondary students up to 1 mile to a bus stop.

Q: I have been told that the bus will not stop in front of my house and my child will have to wait for the bus at another location that is not visible from my home; what can I do?

A: It is the parent and/or guardian's responsibility to get the student to and from the bus stop safely. Walk your young child to the bus stop and have older children walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see. Brightly colored clothing is easier for drivers to see than dark colors; have your child pack his/her belongings in a backpack so items are not lost along the way. Make sure your child leaves the house so that she/she gets to the bus stop at least five minutes before stop time. Running can be dangerous!

Q: Why don't buses have seat belts?

A: School buses are the safest form of transportation for students going to and from school. This has been validated by federal crash testing and research by the National Academy of Sciences. School buses have to meet rigid federal construction standards for the sides and top of the bus, fuel tanks and inside of each bus. The thick padded seats and seat-backs provide a passive form of crash protection known as "compartmentalization". This padding, combined with the placement of the seating area high above the impact zone (with most other vehicles), offers a protection that has resulted in an unmatched record of passenger safety.

Follow this link to the Michigan State Police website for laws and additional information about bus stops in Michigan: http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593_47093_25802_35556-99083--,00.html