

Public School Transportation for the Non-Public Student

The Bellefonte Area School District is pleased to provide transportation for students living within the geographic boundaries of our district who are attending private schools in our area. We have a long, successful history of transporting non-public school students. We are proud of the relationship we have built over the years with the various schools our children attend.

Our District provides transportation to private schools which are within a ten-mile radius of our school district boundaries. This includes most private, charter, parochial and special interest schools in the Bellefonte and State College areas.

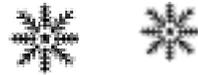
Obviously, because of the distance between Bellefonte and State College, route times may be a little longer in length. However, we strive to transport the students in an expedient, efficient, and safe manner.

Forms of transportation include District vans, private car/van carriers, as well as school buses. Depending upon the location of your home, the school of attendance, school hours, and the number of students living in a particular area will determine the route, possible transfers and vehicle children are placed in. All of our drivers are certified by the State of Pennsylvania and have all the mandatory clearances and training required.

Children under eight years of age and who are transported by car or van will be required to ride in a booster seat. If there are medical reasons why a child should not be riding in a booster seat, the parents will need to provide the District with a written doctor's excuse.



When possible, children will use the shuttle bus system for their transportation to/from school. This means that private school students could be riding the early morning and/or afternoon public school bus route, arriving at the Bellefonte Middle School for the transfers. In the morning, when students arrive at the Middle School, the private school children will transfer to the bus which transports them to their schools in the State College area. In the afternoon, these students will board the bus at their school and then meet at a secure location. From there, the buses will transfer students depending on their home location, and transport them back to their homes in the Bellefonte area. This type of system is used throughout Pennsylvania by the majority of public schools who serve private schools.



Weather Related Schedule Changes

Please note when Bellefonte Area School District closes school due to inclement weather, this means that conditions are not safe to transport children. This includes private school children. Even if the private school the child attends is open, we will not transport. It only makes sense: if road conditions are not safe for the local public school students, it is not, in our opinion, safe for any child. Weather conditions vary between the four local school districts. In most cases, the districts will agree to close or adjust schedules, however, any district has the right to make the decision independently. Please stay tuned to your local radio and television stations for the latest updates. Be aware that during a two-hour delay, the district may change to a full-day closure. The two-hour delay allows for additional evaluation of conditions. Should conditions deteriorate during the two-hour delay period, school can be canceled.

Your child should be excused for their absence if transportation is canceled due to inclement weather. Please seek additional information from your child's school in this regard.



Calendar Conflict Days

Currently, Bellefonte Area School District serves over 14 non-public, parochial, charter and special interest schools. We are coordinating calendars and time schedules for each of these schools. At times these schedules do not all match.

Please be advised when Bellefonte Area School District is closed for In-Service, Holidays, and Act 80 days, and the other schools are still open, we will continue to provide transportation to your student. (The only time we will not provide transportation is weather related closing).

Since the District is closed, our district buses are not running their normal schedule.

Therefore, an abbreviated route is set up, based on the number of students needing transportation, to pick up your students. Please notify the Bellefonte Area School District at least a week in advance of these days that you will need transportation. Forms are available at your school's office. Times and pick-up locations will then be relayed to you before that date.





School Bus Rules

It should be noted that students whose behavior is unacceptable place others at risk. A child violating school bus rules may lose their riding privileges. In the event a child is removed from transportation because of safety and rules violation, the parent will be responsible for the child's transportation during the time of suspension. A child whose behavior consistently places others at risk may be expelled from transportation permanently.

Students are expected to follow the rules:

- Stay seated at all times while bus is in motion
- No loud talking or shouting
- Obscene or foul language is not permitted and will not be tolerated.
- All students must obey the bus driver.
- Do not distract the driver.
- Show respect for the driver and fellow riders.
- No throwing objects inside or out of the bus.
- Use of tobacco is strictly prohibited.
- Do not litter or vandalize the bus.
- Eating and drinking on the bus is prohibited.
- Carry-on objects must fit on the students's lap without causing discomfort to fellow riders.
- Possession of any type of weapon will result in immediate expulsion from transportation.

General Information

Bellefonte Area School District Policy does not allow students to get on or off at any bus stop other than his/her own established stop unless written permission is obtained from a parent and approved by the child's school administration. When such permission is granted, it will be for emergency purposes only and the student must have a bus boarding pass in order to change from his/her regularly scheduled stop.

Current policy only allows for transportation to/from home, we do not provide transportation to afterschool programs.

New bus stops may not be placed in the existing route for child care purposes or alternate stop requests.

We require students to be present at their morning bus stop at least 5 minutes in advance of the scheduled time.

It is illegal for any unauthorized person to enter a school bus. If you need to make inquiries, please call our office 814-355-4814 ext 3033.

Be advised that video/sound surveillance equipment may be in operation on any and all buses to secure safety.



Bellefonte Area School District

Office of Transportation

Transportation for Bellefonte Resident
students not attending
Bellefonte Area District schools