



YOUR HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS...A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

Welcome to another great school year!



Who Do I Call?

Please call **First Student** at (406)-227-7400 if:

- You are wondering where your child's bus is (please give the bus 10 minutes before calling).
- Your child left something on the bus.

Please call the **Transportation Department** (406)-324-2100 if:

- You need to register your child.
- You need to find out what your child's bus route is.
- You need to set up a second address for a split family.
- You have a safety concern with a stop.
- You want to inquire about a courtesy ride.



Helena Public Schools Transportation Department Newsletter

Why isn't my child eligible to ride the bus?

Some students are considered ineligible to ride the bus.

Students who may not be eligible for a ride:

- Live within a walking zone (This is a 1-mile radius for elementary and middle school students and a 3-mile radius for high school students).
- Student lives outside of school boundaries.
- These students may be granted a Courtesy Ride.

Courtesy Rides

Courtesy Rides are available if:

- Bus route/stop already exists.
- There is room on the bus.
- No new stops will be created for courtesy riders.



As the weather changes

As we live in Montana, and that means that the weather can change very quickly, please remember the following:

- Our buses will arrive at the first stop on time every morning, Mother Nature has control of the rest.
- Arrive at the stop a minimum of 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Give the bus 15 minutes past drop off time before calling First Student to allow for slower traffic.
- Make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather if they have to wait outside or walk any distance.
- During extreme weather, children who have a distance to walk will not be allowed off the bus without appropriate winter gear.
- We have teamed up with First Student and the bus drivers to keep our student's safety our #1 priority.

Kindergarten & 1st graders

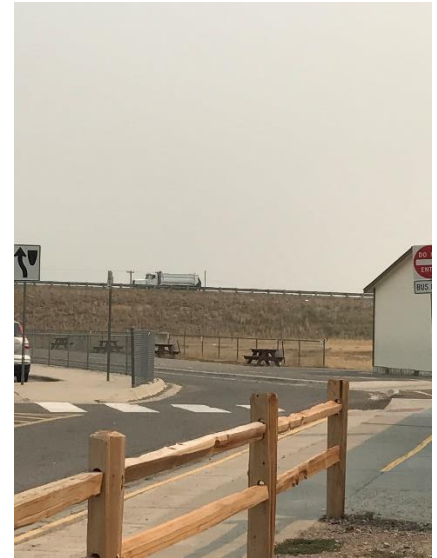
Currently the Helena Public Schools Transportation Department requires that Kindergarten and 1st grade students be met at their afternoon school bus stop by a parent or legal guardian for their safety. The program was created to ensure the safe delivery of our most vulnerable student population.

There is an escort/opt-out form available on the website that parents can choose to fill out to all either someone besides parent/guardian to meet the bus (escort) or allow their child to walk home without anyone meeting the bus (opt-out).



If your child has two different residences

If your child has a split family situation, please contact the Transportation department and we can assist you in your specific transportation needs.



When at the schools

Please remember to not park in the designated bus loading zones. When we cannot pull our buses into those zones, we cannot drop off and pick up students. This makes all of our buses late because many of our buses carry transfer students. Even if you think you will only be a moment, please park in the visitor parking at the schools. Thank you!