

1. When does the bus schedule get posted and updated online?

The Transportation Manager posts the routes on the district website about two weeks prior to the start of school, the routes are updated approximately three weeks after the start of school as there are many changes within that time frame.

Routes will also be updated in January.

2. How are the routes set and do they drive the actual route prior to the start of school?

During the summer staff at the bus company and the District Transportation Manager review all routes and update student information using Versatrans software. Once the routes are updated and prior to the start of school, bus drivers perform trial runs of all routes. Finally, bus routes are reviewed for safety by the SK Police Department before school begins.

3. What is the maximum distance for Elementary, Middle and Secondary students to walk to their bus stops?

Per District Policy: <https://www.boarddocs.com/ri/soki/Board.nsf/Public#>

Elementary students can walk up to a ½ mile to their bus stop and must live more than a ½ mile from the school they attend to be eligible for transportation.

Secondary and Middle school students can walk up to a mile to their bus stop and must live more than a mile from the school they attend to be eligible for transportation.

4. What is the maximum amount of time that students can ride the bus?

We make every effort to keep all ride times under one hour. RIDE has set the maximum ride time at 2 hours.

5. Why are there so many stops, and who determines group stops versus multiple stops?

Stops are determined with safety in mind first, then efficiency. The number of stops on each road depends on many factors including but not limited to:

- Kindergarten door to door (with some exceptions)
- Lack of sidewalks
- High traffic volume
- Other safety concerns

A group stop would be feasible if students could walk to the stop having sidewalks, low traffic, etc. Group stops are more common with secondary students and in neighborhoods with cul-de-sacs, sidewalks and areas with low traffic volume.

6. What process does a parent/guardian take to get a stop looked into?

- The parent/guardian should contact Maria Parrillo, District Transportation Manager @ 360-1306 or email mparrillo@sksd-ri.net.
- The transportation manager will review and take appropriate action.
- Transportation manager will respond to all requests.

7. Why does the bus go past a stop and loop around?

When routes are created we do our best to have all stops pickup curbside whenever possible, sometimes the bus may have to loop around in order to pick up a student curbside.

8. Why are students riding two different buses in the AM and PM but being picked up/dropped off at the same stop?

The direction in which the bus is traveling could impact our ability to drop off students curbside making it safer and/or more efficient for the student to ride different buses in the AM and PM.

9. Why does the bus allow some students to cross in front of the bus on a double yellow line road, yet others are told they cannot?

Our goal is to have as many students as possible dropped off and picked up curbside. Some stops just do not allow for curbside pickup so students have to cross.

10. Can a student be dropped off and picked up at different locations?

Students must be picked up and dropped off at the same location 5 days per week. A student can be picked up at one address and dropped off at an alternate address but it must be the same address 5 days per week.

11. Why don't we have bus stops rather than door to door pick-ups at the elementary level, if the driver will not allow an elementary student off the bus unless an adult is there waiting for them anyhow? This certainly would reduce the amount of time students ride the bus.

We do have some bus stops for elementary students, not all are door to door. Bus stops are only feasible if it is determined that there is a safe route for students to walk to the stop.

12. Why are students that live where there are sidewalks not required to walk to school, since there are crossing guards?

The transportation of all school children in South Kingstown is performed in accordance with state laws and the School Committee Policy. There are some areas with sidewalks that still present a safety hazard so the determination has been made to pick up the student.

13. Bus Monitors:

Bus monitors are hired per RI state law 16-21-1:

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-21/16-21-1.HTM>

14. Rules for students on the bus?

The School Department has a district policy for bus discipline, policy #8325:

<https://www.boarddocs.com/ri/soki/Board.nsf/Public#>

The bus company also has rules for riders:

"DO NOT LOSE YOUR BUS PRIVILEGE!"

FOLLOW THESE RULES

1. Observe classroom conduct.
2. Be courteous, use no profane language.
3. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
4. Keep the bus clean.
5. Co-operate with the driver.
6. Do not smoke.
7. Do not damage bus or equipment.
8. Stay in your seat.
9. Keep head, hands and feet inside bus.
10. Do not fight, push or shove.
11. Do not tamper with bus equipment.
12. Do not bring pets on the bus.
13. Do not bring flammable material on the bus.
14. The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
15. Have a safe trip.