

SOUTHEAST DENVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHARED-ACCESS TRANSPORTATION 2015-16

General Information

- ▶ All elementary students living in the new Southeast Transportation Zone will be eligible to access transportation options to any school in their zone. This includes Hampden Heights, Samuels, and Holm.
- ▶ All elementary school students, regardless of where they live, will be eligible to use a new transportation system in the zone.
- ▶ All stops in the bus service could be located up to one mile from any student's home. Most of the stops will be located at schools, parks, or community-based stops.
- ▶ A transportation bus schedule will be available in June 2015 to assist you in developing your student's bus schedule.

Southeast Denver Shared-Access Zone Bus System:

- ▶ The system will operate using yellow school busses.
- ▶ Students can ride the bus to any school within the Southeast Denver zone. District-run schools within the zone will all be part of the service.
- ▶ The system will require students to get to a bus stop location to be provided a ride to a zone school.
- ▶ If the student's school is closer than the bus stop, transportation is not required.
- ▶ Special-needs students will have increased opportunities to ride the bus with their peers.

Transportation FAQs

Right now the bus picks up my student near my home or in front of my house. Why are you changing the bus system? The current bus system is only available to eligible students that attend certain schools. The new bus system will provide transportation eligibility to 100% of the elementary school students attending any school in your zone. The new bus stops will still be no more than 1 mile from your home and will be located in a safe place such as a school, park, or community-based stop.

How will the bus system serve special-needs students?

Buses will "detour" off the main route to pick up special-needs students at their homes and then return to the route to pick up other students.

What if my student lives in the Southeast Denver Transportation Zone and wants to attend a school outside of the zone? If there is an available bus that travels to the school outside of the zone and has available seats, students may access this transportation. Students will be required to complete a transportation exception form.

When will this information be shared with parents?

Participating schools in the transportation system can be found on the Transportation website at <http://transportation.dpsk12.org>. Draft stop times are still being finalized and will be available in June 2015. All schools participating in the zone transportation will communicate with families by sending information home. It is important to ensure your home address is correct with your school.

What if my student is in a magnet program, how do I determine what bus they will catch?

Magnet schools outside the regions are not part of the zone service. Students who qualify for transportation will receive his/her information in August 2015. No changes will occur to this service.

How early should my student arrive at the bus stop or be dropped off at school?

Students should arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes before the selected stop time. Students being dropped off at school should not arrive earlier than 20-25 minutes prior to the school bell time. Please check with your school to determine how early the school will open to serve breakfast. Then check the bus schedule to determine the bus and time students should be at the stop for the desired arrival time at their school.

Where should my student wait for the bus and how will they identify the bus?

Each school will have clearly identified bus pick-up/drop-off locations identified and communicated through student transportation letters sent home in August. Buses will have a placard in the front passenger window which will identify the route the bus is traveling. Students and parents will be encouraged to learn the route number of the bus they should ride.

How will Transportation provide a safe environment for my child?

Safety for students is a combined effort of parents, students and schools. This is a collaborative effort and asks that everyone work to make this new transportation system successful. There will be zero tolerance for bullying and fighting at bus stops. Transportation utilizes the Positive Behavior Intervention Support System. The driver will address all concerns in an effort to redirect the behavior and ensure student safety. Should negative behaviors persist students may lose their riding privileges. Detailed information on the PBIS program can be found on the DPS Transportation website at <http://transportation.dpsk12.org>.

How will I know my child is on the bus?

With +Pass, the DPS student ridership system that became available in 2013, schools and parents now have easy, real-time access to this information. Parents can contact their student's school, or access ridership information via the Parent Portal. All transportation-eligible students in DPS who ride a yellow school bus are expected to use their +Pass. For more information, contact your school or visit <http://transportation.dpsk12.org>.

What if my child chooses to get off at a different stop?

Transportation will encourage students to always get off at their designated stops, however we cannot prevent students from getting off at a different stop.

What if my child misses his/her bus stop?

If a student misses their bus stop or forgets to get off the bus, they should inform the driver and stay on the bus. The driver will inform radio dispatch that a student missed his/her stop and s/he will be dropped off at the correct stop after all other stops have been completed.

Who should I call if I can't find my child?

Call radio dispatch at 720-423-4624, office hours of operation are from 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. or call Safety and Security at 720-423-3911. If students use their +Pass, it allows transportation to track their location quickly. Students who currently possess a +Pass should always scan on and off the bus. If your student does not possess a card, a request should be made through your school to receive a replacement pass.

If I have a question regarding the pick-up or drop-off location, who can I call?

Call transportation at 720-423-4600 or your school. You can also visit our website at <http://transportation.dpsk12.org> or Parent Portal for updates.