

LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



The Lamar County School System would like to welcome our new and returning students for the upcoming School Year. Enclosed you will find some very important information about riding a school bus. We, in the Transportation Department, would like to wish you a very successful and safe year.

Help Us Save a Life – The Transportation Department asks that you pass along to your family and friends that it is unlawful to pass a School Bus when **RED** lights are flashing. Georgia is one of the leaders the nation in fatalities and injuries among children hit by drivers passing a stopped bus. Penalties for passing a stopped bus is a minimum of \$500.00 and 6 points but hitting a child getting on or off a bus could result in stiffer penalties and possibly prison.

All Lamar County School buses are equipped with new video recording equipment with three cameras placed in strategic locations inside the bus.

The Transportation Department receives hundreds of phone calls on a regular basis. Our busiest times (6:30am – 8:15am and 2pm – 4:30pm) are when buses are picking up or delivering students. **We have compiled a list of answers to our most common FAQ's:**

Why Is MY Child's Bus Late?

Weather, traffic, mechanical issues, delays leaving the schools and many more unforeseen incidents are responsible for delays. Please allow **fifteen (15) minutes** before calling the transportation office and/or school.

Why Can't You Call When You Know The Bus Will Be Late?

On most buses there are 50-70 students and it is virtually impossible to call each residence in a short time span. An "All-Call" will be made to parents of those affected by an emergency issue or extended delay.

How Can My Child Ride Home With A Friend?

A request for your child to ride a different bus can be filled out at the child's school. The school will direct your child to the correct bus and give the bus driver the approval slip. Request can or may be denied due to bus seating availability.

How Can We Change Our Child's Pick Up and Delivery Address?

Changes must be made in writing. These forms are available at your child's school or come by the Transportation Office.

How Can I Find Out What Bus My Child Will Ride? *Refer to Bus Route Info and Bus Stops Below*

Who Is Authorized To Ride Or Get On A Bus?

Only APPROVED riders such as:

- A Lamar County student
- Field Trip Chaperone (s)
- Lamar County School officials
- Law enforcement and medical personnel

Any attempt by an unauthorized person (s) to board a bus may be referred to the local law enforcement agencies.

Who Can Ride A Special Needs or Special Ed Bus?

These buses are limited to students with IEP plans, 504 plans or declaration of homeless status stating the student requires special transportation.

What Items Are NOT Allowed On The Bus?

- NO candy, gum or food
- NO GLASS containers
- NO bottles / cans or open containers (plastic WATER bottles are acceptable)
- NO animals (live or dead). Any animal (s) and their containers will be given back to a principal or their designee for storage or parents can transport child and child's animal / container.
- NO large or bulky projects
These will be considered on a case-by case basis, but likely won't be allowed. Contact us with any questions.
- NO weapons, explosives, explosive devices, lighters, drugs, combustible materials, alcohol, tobacco products or any other item not allowed on school property per each school's Handbook.

School Bus Conduct

It is unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school bus, or public school bus stop designated by local school officials. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Students should:

- Remain seated at all times, talk in a classroom voice and keep your hands to yourself and out of the aisles.
- Obey all instructions by the bus driver or bus aide
- Not use profanity, intimidating or threatening language at anytime.
- Not bully or tease another student.
- Associate with the younger students on the bus unless the student is a relative.
- Stay in assigned seat if the driver assigns seats.
- Not throw anything off the bus.
- Not carry any items previously listed on the bus

Riding a bus is a privilege and not a right. Your child can be suspended or permanently removed from riding a bus if his or her conduct jeopardizes the safety of any individual on the bus including the driver. In the event there is a conduct issue the driver will present the principal at your child's school with the video and a written statement. The principal or his/her designee will administer discipline which will be age appropriate and based on a progressive discipline plan at the school.

No buses are provided for Lamar County after School Programs for disciplinary issues. Parent (s) or guardians must make arrangements for their child.

The Afternoon Rider:

Delivery: Age Requirements

In cooperation with the Department of Family and Children Services, it is the practice of Lamar County School System to ensure that parents are at home before dropping off students, specifically Primary and Elementary age, hence the following criteria have been setup:

Pre-K through the 3rd grade:

A parent / Guardian, or a Parent / Guardian designee must be present or visible at the bus stop or residence. If an adult is not present and visible the driver will return any child Pre-K through 3rd back to the student's respective school where the parent (s), guardian or designee can pick up the student.

Please call the school if an adult is not going to be at the drop off location. The parent should make every reasonable attempt to communicate with the school in a timely manner. Repeated failure to receive your student as outlined above may result in the loss of bus riding privileges.

4th – 12th grade:

Students can be left at the bus stop or residence **without** an adult present or visible. However, a Parent / Guardian can request an adult be present or visible to receive the student by requesting in writing. Forms can be obtained:

1. At the student's school
2. Or at the Transportation Department located at 227 Roberta Road, Barnesville

Bus Stop – Route Info

Your child's bus stop and estimated pick up time can be found:

- On the LCSS Website: www.lamar.k12.ga.us under Transportation.
- Ask your child's teacher or school official
- Call the Transportation Office as a last resort. The transportation office handles hundreds of calls throughout the day and may not be able to respond immediately.

First Two Weeks Of School

Bus stops and pick up times are only estimates since many students are not enrolled until after school starts. During this time we will have a better picture of the riders along each bus route. The driver on your route will pick up any students standing along the road. Your child will need to be **AT** his/her stop and ready to board at least 15 minutes prior to pick up.

After the First Two Weeks

At this time bus stops and pick up times will be adjusted but may be changed throughout the year due to students enrolling or moving to different areas. Children will need to be at their stop and ready to board at least 5 minutes prior to pick up. The driver may instruct your child of minor changes but you will be notified of major changes by the Transportation Department.

We ask ALL parents to call the Transportation Office prior to the starting of a route if your child is not riding that day or will not be riding on one of the AM or PM routes. Unnecessary stops are costly.

Note: Your child must be at their designated bus stop and ready to board when the bus arrives. The following actions can cause your privileges to be suspended or revoked:

- Repeated delaying the bus (waiting for a student (s) to come out of their residence).
- If your child does not ride 4 consecutive times without a phone call to notify the Transportation Office.
- Attempts to disrupt, interfere or impede a bus during a route can cause your stop to be dropped and the parent (s) or guardian will have to bring student to school.

Exceptions may be made due to weather conditions.

Bus Stops

Lamar County will follow ALL state guidelines for designating bus stops. The Transportation Department and Lamar County Schools will always keep student and driver safety as a top priority.

Residences in close proximity to each other and in sub divisions may have assigned bus stops. Parent (s) and/or guardians will be notified if major changes to pick up locations are made.

Medical Issues

Some students may have medical issues that may require immediate medical attention such as bee stings. Please fill out a medical emergency form at your child's school. This form will notify the driver of the type of medical issue and the appropriate response. The driver will keep this form on the bus in the event a situation arises.

At the Bus Stop

- Stay 12' off the road
- No horse playing
- Allow younger kids to board first
- Report any strangers hanging around or near the bus stop.
- Be at your stop and ready to board when the bus arrives.
- It is best to have an adult family member at the stop or visible.
- Do not walk alongside the bus when boarding or exiting the bus and do not stop in the danger zone (within 12' of the front, sides or of the bus).
- You should always stay in the sight of the driver.
- If you have to cross a lane of traffic to board always wait for the bus to make a complete stop before approaching the road; then wait for driver to signal.

School Telephone Numbers:

Primary	770-358-8661
Elementary	770-358-5556
Middle	770-358-8652
High	770-358-8641

Transportation Office	770-358-8670
Central Office	770-358-5891

Student's Name _____

Bus # _____

Designated Bus Stop _____

Pick Up Time _____

Driver's Name _____