



Rush-Henrietta Central School District

www.rhnet.org

To the Parent/Guardian of:

Student Name

Address

City State Zip

District Announces Change in How It Handles K-5 School Bus Passes

December 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District is committed to providing safe and timely transportation for its students. We take great pride in the care and service we provide as we transport nearly 6,000 students each day on district buses, traveling well in excess of one million miles each school year to do so.

Unfortunately, the dramatic increase during the past few years in daily requests for changes to pick-up and drop-off locations through the use of bus passes is now impacting our ability to provide safe, reliable, and timely transportation for our students. In September, more than 1,000 requests for bus schedule changes were made at our elementary schools, resulting in bus delays that affected subsequent routes and increased the potential for students to be transported to the wrong drop-off location. This is truly a frightening experience for our younger students.

We no longer have the capability to grant last-minute changes to bus schedules and will begin limiting requests for bus passes effective January 3, 2017.

Beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2017:

- **Requests for bus schedule changes must be received by the main office, in writing, by the Wednesday prior to the week of change.** For example, if your child needs to go to a different location on Thursday, January 19, this request needs to be received by the main office on or before Wednesday, January 11.
- **The deadline for requesting a bus schedule change will apply to any change in a pick-up or drop-off location, even if the student will be riding the regular bus (e.g., dropping off at a neighbor's house instead of at home).**
- **No bus passes will be issued for convenience, social events, or school projects.**
- **Emergency situations (unforeseen hardship) will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the building principal. Beginning in September 2017, in most emergency situations, it will be recommended that the student be placed in the school's after-school program for that day, at the parent's expense.**

We regret the inconvenience these changes may cause, and hope that you understand that the district is taking these measures to help ensure the safety of students and minimize disruptions for students and parents. We appreciate your continued support as we do everything we can to maintain safe, reliable, and timely transportation for your children.

If you have any questions about this change in practice, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions listed below. Your student's building principal or the Board of Education's liaison for student transportation is also available to answer additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,



J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **A few times each year, my child asks to ride the bus to a friend's house. Will this be permitted?** No. Bus schedule changes will not be permitted for convenience or social events. You will be required to provide this transportation.
2. **A few times each year, situations arise that prevent me from getting home in time to meet my child getting off the bus. Will I be able to have my child dropped at a different location on these days?** If you request this change in drop-off location by the Wednesday of the preceding week, yes. Otherwise, only if your request is deemed an unforeseeable emergency.
3. **My child will attend an after-school child care program each day. However, there will be days when I will be at home and I will want my child to take the bus home. Will this be permitted?** If you request this change in drop-off location by the Wednesday of the preceding week, yes. Otherwise, only if your request is deemed an unforeseeable emergency.
4. **My child will be dropped off at one child care provider three times each week and a second child care provider the other two days. However, there will be weeks when these drop off locations need to change. Will this be permitted?** If you request the change in drop-off locations by the Wednesday of the preceding week, yes. Otherwise, only if your request is deemed an unforeseeable emergency.
5. **If I cannot have my child's bus drop-off location changed, will my child be allowed to attend the school's afterschool child care program on these days?** Yes, this will be possible beginning in September 2017. There will be a fee for this service and you will be required to pick up your child during program hours.
6. **Where can I find these student transportation policies?** There are three pertinent student transportation policies: Policy 8410, Policy 8411, and Regulation 8411-R. These policies are posted on the district's website (www.rhnet.org).
7. **Who can I contact to ask questions or express concerns about these student transportation policies?** You can contact the Board of Education's liaison for student transportation, Sean McCormick, at smccormick@rhnet.org.