

# The Canon-McMillan Transportation Department Answers Your Questions

1) I cannot see my child at the bus stop from my house. Is this legal and safe?

**ANSWER:** The state maximum walking distance to a bus stop for high school students is 2 miles from the point of their walk to the bus stop on public roads and 1 ½ miles for elementary students. Canon-McMillan bus stops typically are less than a ½ mile and closer in 90% of the district designated stops. Safety issues at the bus stop will be addressed on a case-by-case basis addressing parent, geographical, and traffic issues.

2) How do I change my child's bus stop?

**ANSWER:** Please fill out the on-line form for specialized transportation request or call the Transportation Secretary at 724-745-1502. The form can be submitted electronically or the secretary will fill the form out over the phone. Please allow 5 working days for a decision or response to your request.

3) What if my child needs dropped off at another location?

**ANSWER:** Consistent transportation schedules are needed in order to provide safe transportation. Approximately 5,000 students are scheduled to ride our district buses and temporary bus stop changes disrupt this schedule. Students are not permitted to be dropped off at another stop.

4) The bus drives right by my house and my child still has to walk to the end of the street to board the bus. Why doesn't the bus stop at my house?

**ANSWER:** The greater number of stops a school bus run makes increases the number of buses needed to transport students to and from school. Numerous stops delay traffic along the roadways and limit the district buses to be fully utilized. Impatient drivers and safety issues increase proportionally as the loading and unloading zones increase. Also, ride time increases for students as each stop is added. For safety, security and fiscal responsibility stops are limited to provide an affordable student transportation service.

- 5) The school bus drove by our stop today without stopping. Shouldn't the drivers stop at each scheduled stop no matter what?

**ANSWER:** Canon-McMillan School bus drivers have been instructed to slow down at each designated bus stop and turn on the amber flashing lights and stop if they see students. Students are to be at the stop 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled bus stop time. If they are unable to see an approaching stop area they will stop as scheduled. Slowing down versus stopping helps maintain the traffic patterns for motorists. Many times students discontinue riding the school bus and unnecessary stops will be eliminated resulting in shortened student riding time.

- 6) The school bus is arriving at 7:55 a.m. everyday but today the bus came at 8:05 a.m., WHY?

**ANSWER:** Many variables impact the bus schedule. Traffic and weather are two conditions that our department tries to address before delays occur. Unfortunately, late notice or zero lead time doesn't allow for avoidance of many issues. Students boarding the bus in a less than business like manner and late-comers walking to the bus stop add/or create bus delays for stops scheduled on the bus run. The added time delays each stop scheduled after the delay.

- 7) How long is my child's trip to school allowed to take once he/she boards the bus?

**ANSWER:** The state does not have a time limit but Canon-McMillan School District has set a 45 minute ride time as a guide for schools in our district boundaries. We try our best to meet this time but 56 square miles of district make this difficult for all routes and students.

8) My child did not get off the bus at our stop.  
What should I do?

**ANSWER:** Please call the bus garage at 724-745-1502. The driver will be contacted to confirm your child is on the bus. Younger children sometimes do not pay attention to the bus run and forget to get off the bus at their stop. The drivers cannot see some of the smaller children due to the height of the seats and also because they are focused on the busy roadways. Drivers will notify the bus garage as soon as they discover the child and the secretary will contact you. The driver will continue his/her route and come back and drop your child off at the designated stop ASAP.

9) Why doesn't the bus turnaround at the end of our cul de sac?

**ANSWER:** Cul de sacs are the last areas that winter road treatment or maintenance occurs so bus runs are not routed down these roads. Turning radius on our school buses is different and most of our buses cannot negotiate the turning radius without unexpected back up potentially creating a safety concern.

10) How do we retrieve personal property or homework left on the school bus?

**ANSWER:** Canon-McMillan Bus Drivers check their assigned bus at the end of their run for any possible items or students that could be left on the bus. Drivers bring the lost articles to the front and return it to the student the next time they ride the bus. School lunch boxes are delivered to the school office on the kindergarten run. Important homework or band instruments may be picked up at the bus garage before 4:30 p.m. or the return will be made the next day.