

MNSD Transportation Update

What can students and parents expect to see in the first two weeks of a new school year?

With the start of a new school year comes new routes and bus stop location changes for the drivers and students. During the first two weeks of school, transportation processes are likely to be delayed. Parents want to take pictures of their children and speak with their bus drivers, additional traffic volume at the schools causes delays, and we are all acclimating to new routines.

During the first two weeks, the Transportation Office staff is busy adding new students and updating student information. All of these changes cause additional stops to be added or removed from school bus runs. We try to keep the stop times the same; however, sometimes we are unable to do so. After the initial bus passes are issued, we issue an estimated 300 new or revised bus passes. Please check the Campus portal for updated times and school bus routes and/or bus number assignments.

Our office staff is constantly working with the drivers to enable all students to arrive at school on time. Bus runs may be changed to accomplish the goal of on-time delivery to all the schools to which we provide service. After the first two weeks of school, we usually have accomplished this goal.

Additionally, we are collecting student counts from the drivers to ensure that the school buses are not overcrowded. The volume of late enrollments and changes in school assignments can add more students to the runs and can cause the school buses to become overpopulated. Usually, moving a stop from one run to another solves the overcrowding issue.

We respectfully request your patience during the first two weeks of the school year, and we ask that you hold off on requesting any significant changes to your child's bus route at this time. During the first two weeks of school, our outstanding bus drivers will tweak their bus routes as they observe traffic volume and construction obstacles and as they get to know the needs of the students they transport.

If you need to request a change to your child's bus stop, you may obtain a *Student Transportation Change Request* form from the district's website. The form is available on the District Departments tab under Transportation. Please complete the form, and submit it to the Transportation office as per the instructions on the form. Once a change request form is received, it may take up to two weeks following the end of the second week of school to have a final determination.

Thank you for your patience as we begin a new school year!