

# Muncie Community Schools Office of Student Transportation

## School Start Up FAQ's

### ***Why did my child's bus stop change?***

Each year the Office of Student Transportation evaluates bus stop locations, safety concerns, and ensures that we are compliant with all state and federal laws. This may require shifting bus stops from year to year.

### ***Why can't the bus stop at my house?***

The Office of Student Transportation is faced with requests for home stops routinely. While we would love to accommodate all requests we simply can't. Stopping at each house would make the bus routes extremely long and add wear and tear to our buses. The state funding has changed and it would be impossible for to operate within the allotted means. In addition, the bus drivers must activate their warning lights 200 feet before stopping at a bus stop. This gives motorist adequate time to prepare to stop. They also must not re-activate their warning lights for 200 feet after leaving a stop. Thus, 400 feet must be between bus stops. Only homes located on busy or unsafe roads will have house stops.

### ***Why is the bus late the first week of school?***

Bus driver's do an incredible job transporting our children. They go through many training classes to obtain their license and be qualified to transport children. However, learning a new route is difficult and takes time. During the first two weeks, we ask for your patience as drivers are learning their roadways, their times, learning their students/families, and traffic patterns. In the afternoon, it takes longer the first two weeks as schools are learning which students ride which buses. It takes about two weeks for your child's driver to be acclimated with their route. We ask for your patience during the first few weeks.

### ***Why are the buses overcrowded?***

The bus routes are designed using routing software. This gives our staff the ability to monitor how many students are routed on each bus. The buses are manufactured of a rating of three students per seat. High school and middle school students we strive to only route 2 students per seat. However, when you add jackets, band equipment, back packs and other items the buses appear to be full when they are below capacity. Students need to keep their backpack on their lap or behind them but not next to them. Failure to not do this takes up space for students to sit. If you have concerns over your child's bus route please do not hesitate to contact us and we will consider each concern.

### ***The bus driver won't discuss a concern I have. Why not?***

We ask all concerns to be addressed at the Office of Student Transportation. Our bus drivers have schedules they must follow and any lost time will cause them to run late. Our Office Staff is always available to address any concerns. Once we become aware of a situation we will consult with our bus driver's, administrative team, and our consultants. This will expedite the process and ensure all concerns are handled with the utmost importance.