



SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND-GRANVILLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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2017/2018 Transportation: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a full size and a mid-size bus?

A full size bus has a 71 passenger capacity and is approximately 7-8 feet longer than the 42 passenger mid-size bus. Seen in isolation, one may be confused for the other.

How do we determine what the right size bus is for a route?

Safety is the number one criteria for determining the right size bus for a route. While it is best practice to avoid any turn arounds, the rural landscape of our District often requires us to turn buses around. That is when the right size bus is most important. Onsite visits are the way we determine where turn arounds can happen and what size bus is most appropriate. When conducting an onsite visit the following factors are considered: weather conditions including snow, fog and rain; topography such as culverts, gulleys and trees; presence of man made objects such as mailboxes, flowerpots, landscaping, fences and gates.

Can a driveway be a turnaround?

Sometimes driveways can be turnarounds but that is not always an option. It is important that the driveway is right sized, with no obstructions. The driveway must be maintained in all weather conditions, all the time, including snow and ice. Buses are heavy vehicles and turning around in a driveway may cause ruts in unpaved driveways and cracks in asphalt.

Why do students transfer from one bus to another during their route?

Bus transfers are used to ensure that students arrive to school on time. Transfers also reduce ride times by allowing more buses to travel out through the town to pick students up.

Why is the Granville Town Hall being used as the transfer location?

The Granville Town Hall's central location to students in Granville and Tolland, large parking lot, and dedicated winter maintenance make it the ideal spot for a bus transfer location. Bus transfers take place in a part of the lot that is well away from vehicle traffic in the event of a police or fire emergency. The District worked closely with the Granville Town Administration prior to the start of school to ensure communication among everyone utilizing the parking lot.

Are the transfers and shuttle buses causing students to arrive at school late?

No. The transfers are designed to ensure students arrive on time.

How long is my child on the bus, and why?

While some District students do experience bus rides that are close to an hour, we make every effort to get them to their destination as quickly and safely as possible. The rural landscape of our District provides unique challenges that may slow transportation. Important facts to keep in mind:

- School buses rarely leave the school at the dismissal bell time because time is needed to safely load all the children onto the buses.
- Delays at one school often result in delays at subsequent schools.
- Possible reasons for delays include: student loading/unloading time at home and school – the first days are an exciting time for families and pictures and communication with drivers is very common, especially for the younger grades. Other reasons for delays include road construction, tree work, traffic or slow moving vehicles, and road and weather conditions.