

Pay Rider Transportation Options

Questions and Answers

- 1. What is the Pay Rider program?** *The Pay Rider transportation program is designed to allow more options for student transportation than the state funded home to school transportation model. It will allow, if capacity is available, transportation services that the School District is not required to provide as follows:*
 - *Provide a bus requested by aftercare provider that does not otherwise provide transportation.*
 - *Allow a student to use a second bus at an established stop to a caregiver/home location.*
 - *Allow students that do not qualify for transportation (who live within 2 miles of the school) to use an established stop.*
- 2. What transportation services are School Districts required to provide?** *The School Board policy and State law and rules require that home to school transportation be provided for students that live greater than 2 miles from the school that they are required to attend. Board policy designates using the enrolling parent's address to determine entitlement of transportation and designation of a bus stop.*
- 3. Why are you making changes to the transportation system that is already in place?** *The primary reason is to allow more transportation options for parents. State funding for transportation is less than 40% of the transportation costs. To prevent classroom funds being used for transportation, we continue to look at ways to reduce costs. Anything that is not part of our core responsibility, we must review to see whether we should be performing the function and seek the proper way to fund the activity. In 2009, we restructured magnet school transportation to community stops.*
- 4. Many aftercare providers provide transportation as a part of their program. We agreed to provide service to our partner aftercare agencies that do not have their own transportation systems, in exchange for payment of the transportation cost.**
- 5. Since the bus is already running, why does it cost more to stop at the aftercare center?** *It cost about \$800 per student to transport each student for the year. The fee for aftercare was calculated based upon the additional payroll cost and miles of the buses for the extra length of trip or time to service the aftercare.*
- 6. If I have more than one child, do I have to pay for each one?** *The cost for running the bus is based upon a per student cost, so you must pay for each seat requested.*
- 7. If I am on a fixed low income, is there a discount?** *There is a discount for all riders; we are only requiring the payment of \$100 per semester in lieu of the actual cost we incur of \$800 per year for each student.*
- 8. Can I get a home to school bus in the morning if I ride to day care in the afternoon?** *Yes, part of the plan is to provide more options to parents for both home to school and aftercare transportation.*
- 9. If I do not need two buses, why do I have to pay for aftercare transportation?** *Free transportation is only provided for home to school transportation. Aftercare providers structure their fee and transportation in a variety of methods. We have partnered with some providers to provide transportation services that they cannot or if it is more economical for us to do so. The aftercare providers only pay us the cost to provide the services they request.*

9. **If I am an after care provider, can I get a bus from schools to my facility?** *We have a limited capacity on what we can support without adding costs. We are utilizing vacant seats to provide after care transportation on current routes. That is why the cost is less than the total cost per student. Once the seats are filled we cannot accommodate more after care rides without adding significant costs. Requests from new providers will be evaluated on case by case basis, depending on location, impact on current operation, number of students, etc.*
10. **I share custody with my former spouse and we need two buses. May I get a bus to a second location?** *The same rules that apply to aftercare apply for any second location. You may register after Labor Day for a second bus stop location, and if we have capacity, a second route will be provided for the student. Service will commence upon payment of the semester fee/cost. We wait until after Labor Day because our first responsibility is to provide home to school transportation for students and we often have changes and new students that we must route first. Individual requests will be answered no later than September 1.*
11. **If I live within 2 miles of a school but do not want my child to walk, can I get a bus?** *Since you are not eligible for free transportation, the Pay Rider option may be available. Parents may register and request a bus assignment. After verification of sufficient capacity, a bus will be assigned. Upon payment of the semester fee the student will be routed and allowed to ride from the current closest bus stop. New stops will not be established for this portion of the program.*
12. **If I have a temporary situation, can I get a discount for a partial semester?** *In order to manage the system and keep fees low, we do not offer partial payment or refunds.*
13. **How do I register for the Pay Rider program?** *Parents may register in two ways:*
- *Aftercare riders register with our aftercare partners. They will provide the information to the School District and we will route students and bill the aftercare agencies for the services.*
 - *Parents requesting a bus for a student who resides less than 2 miles from their assigned school or a bus to a second location may complete an application form and submit to:*

*St. Lucie Public Schools
Transportation Department
325 NW Commerce Park Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
FAX (772) 340-7134
Phone (772) 204-RIDE (7433)*

or

*St. Lucie Public Schools
Transportation Department
601 S. 29th St.
Ft. Pierce, FL 34947
FAX (772) 468-5122
Phone (772) 204-RIDE (7433)*