

The Wake County Public School System provides bus transportation to students living more than one-and-a-half miles from school and also to students with special needs.

- Bus transportation is not provided to pupils who live outside Wake County.
- Students who are assigned outside their geographical area because of their request for a transfer (not magnet school) are not guaranteed transportation.
- Regular students who are medically certified as temporarily incapacitated may be considered for special accommodation.
- Students living within the stated limits of the walk zones (1.5 miles from the school) are not allowed to ride a school bus unless factors are present which would endanger the safety of students walking to school.
- If roads and other conditions permit, the buses shall be so routed that a bus will pass within three-tenths of a mile from residences of elementary students and one-half mile of secondary students' residences.

Routes & Bus Stops

The board subscribes to state statutes and guidelines regarding the location of bus stops including but not limited to:

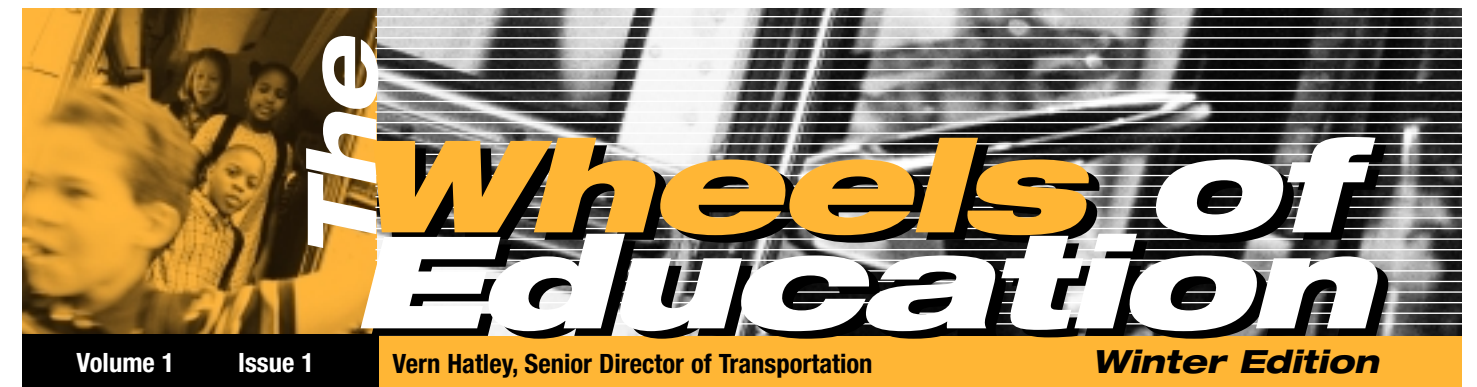
- Bus stops are placed no closer than two-tenths of a mile apart unless safety hazards exist.
- Buses are routed on state-maintained roads only.
- Buses are generally prohibited from traveling into cul-de-sacs.
- Generally, bus stops are placed on corners.

Traveling By School Bus is One of the Safest Forms of Transportation

Each day, more than 57,000 students in Wake County are transported on Wake County buses. Safety is a high priority on these school buses and a group effort. Thanks to Wake County's students, parents, teachers, school administrators, drivers and transportation staff, there have been no instances of school bus occupant fatalities during Wake County Schools' history.

Throughout the nation, traveling by school bus has been proven to be one of the safest forms of transportation available. A recent study by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies for Science found that children are at far more risk traveling to and from school in private passenger vehicles - especially if a teen-age driver is involved - than in school buses. The study also indicated that bicycling and walking also place students at greater risk than traveling by school bus.

The study found that every year, about 800 school-age children are killed in motor vehicle crashes during normal school travel hours accounting for about 14 percent of the 5,600 child deaths that occur on the nation's roadways. Of these 800 deaths, only about 2 percent are school-bus related, while 74 percent occur in private passenger vehicles and 22 percent are the result of pedestrian or bicycle accidents.



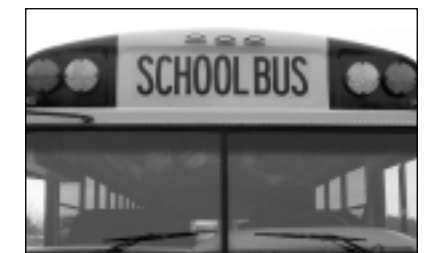
Wake Buses Safe and Efficient:

The Wake County Public School System provides bus transportation to all students in the system who live more than one-and-a-half miles from school and to students with identified special needs. The average ride time for students is 43 minutes each way and the average mileage is 16.5. The system's transportation department is committed to providing these students with safe, efficient and reliable transportation service that contributes to their overall academic success.

Each day, more than 57,000 students in Wake County are transported on 743 buses, covering more than 13.8 million miles a year. The number of students who ride the bus daily continues to grow by 1,500 to 2,000 children each year.

Over the past 10 years, the school system has only purchased 40 buses, but has added 39 new schools and more than 16,655 new bus riders. Based on this growth and transportation standards, the school system should have purchased 166 new buses to handle the increase – the general rule is to add one new bus for each 100 additional riders. For the 2004-2005 school year, 55 new buses have been placed on order.

The cost for adding a bus is \$63,000 (capital outlay) plus \$43,000 for operating costs, resulting in a total of \$106,000 per bus. Considering the high cost, the Board of Education asked the transportation department to do the best they could with the resources they have rather than purchasing more buses.



As a result, the school system implemented a three-tiered system where one bus serves three different schools in the morning and three different schools in the afternoon. The three-tier system has helped the school system save taxpayers millions of dollars in transportation costs over the past ten years.



The Three-Tier Bus Transportation System

The three-tier bus transportation system was implemented in fall of 1993 when Leesville Road High School opened. At that time, the Board of Education did not have sufficient funds to purchase enough buses to support opening an additional new high school. Direction was given to the transportation department to investigate ways to transport students to school without adding additional buses.

The three-tier bus transportation system was introduced, which allowed more students to be transported using the same number of buses, which ultimately saved the school system and taxpayers millions of dollars. Under the three-tier system, one driver and bus is responsible for delivering students to three schools in the morning and returning them home in the afternoon.

As a result schools are assigned to three different tiers or three different opening and closing times. Each school is assigned to a tier — the first tier schools open around 7:30 and close around 2:15. The second tier

schools open around 8:15 and close around 3:00 and the third tier schools open around 9:15 and close around 3:45. History has shown, however, the third tier is by far the least desirable choice among parent, students, and administrators. However, for the system to work there must be at least 45 minutes between dismissal times of the three tiers. It takes at least 45 minutes in the afternoon to pick up students at a school, take them home and get back to the second school in time to pick those students up. The 45 minutes are needed because of traffic, geography and distance.

The three-tier system helps WCPSS be efficient and provide relatively good service with fewer buses. Operating the three-tier system saves the cost of buying more buses and hiring more drivers.

The school system currently operates 743 school buses. A bus costs \$63,000 for the vehicle and \$43,000 to operate for a total of \$106,000. By using the three-tier system, the school system has saved taxpayers more than \$100 million that would be needed to

purchase and operate enough buses to allow all schools to have their own buses and open and close at the same time.

In addition, the state pays for operating costs to and from schools as long as the buses are operating efficiently, which means at near capacity. The three-tier system ensures that all of Wake County's buses are used efficiently — WCPSS is at 100% efficiency.

Using this system also enables the school system to hire drivers full-time rather than part-time like it would have to do if each bus only served one school. If all schools had their own buses, the school system would need more than 900 more part-time employees — it would be difficult to find that many people willing to work part-time. The three-tier system enables the school system to hire drivers full-time. This lets WCPSS keep drivers for longer periods of time and have a more dependable, safe and steady workforce.

2003-2004 Average Ride Times and Distance

Type of Students:	Average Ride Time	Average Mileage
Students on an alternate calendar	62 min	22.5
Students attending overflow school due to capping	57 min	21.2
Students attending magnet schools	51 min	17.3
Students attending year-round schools	57 min	18.9
Students involuntarily reassigned	34 min	13.1
Students attending traditional base elementary	32 min	10.1
Students attending traditional base secondary school	38 min	13.3

WCPSS Transportation Department Facts 2003-2004



- Operates 743 regular route buses plus 84 spares & 135 activity buses (962 total)
- 150 contract vehicles
- 57,000+ students transported daily
- 4,000+ daily bus routes
- 26,500+ daily bus stops
- Average ride time for students – 43 minutes (one way)
- Average distance traveled by students – 16.5 miles (one way)
- Nation's 23rd largest school bus fleet; state's second largest
- Serves 127 schools
- Buses travel 13.8 million miles annually
- Uses 2,056,965 gallons of fuel annually
- Operates at 100 percent efficiency
- Operating budget of \$35 million

Need for drivers

One of the greatest challenges faced with meeting the needs of rapid growth is finding enough bus drivers to have a driver assigned to each bus and an adequate pool of substitute drivers.

Driver qualifications:

- Must be 18 years old.
- Must possess a valid NC driver's license.
- Must have had a valid driver's license for a minimum of two years.
- With 2-4 years of total driving experience: no more than one ticket or at-fault accident during that period.
- With 5-9 years of driving experience: no more that two tickets or two at-fault accidents during that period.
- With 10 or more years of experience: no more that two tickets and one at-fault accident or two at-fault accidents and one ticket during that time period.
- No convictions of DWI.
- No convictions of reckless driving.
- No suspension of driving privileges in the last 10 years due to a moving violation (a suspension for failure to appear does not count).
- Any prospective driver who has had a license in another state within the last five years must provide a driving record from that state as well as possess a valid NC driver's license.
- Must take class and pass examinations administered by DMV and receive CDL with "S" and "P" endorsements.

Anyone who meets the above requirements and is interested in becoming a school bus driver for the Wake County Public School System may apply by filling out a WCPSS job application form.