

Roland-Story Discretionary Busing Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Why were changes implemented to the discretionary busing program for 2019?*
 - Student Safety - the new process allows students to stay on one bus from the time they are picked up to the time they are dropped off. This has not been the case for all students in the past. Getting students to and from school without the need to switch buses equates to a safer situation for all involved.
 - Parent Choice - The new process allows parents to select pick up and drop off locations based on the available stops provided throughout each community. In some cases, parents can even choose between two pick up times, one earlier and one later, as buses will pick up at each stop twice each morning. This has not been the case in the past as the district has always determined pick up locations and times without providing any more than one option to parents.
 - Simplification - Because the new process will work much like a Cy-Ride route, it should be easier to understand and allow parents to more easily make changes to their own schedules and pick up locations throughout the year without the need to contact the school.

2. *What does it cost to participate in the discretionary busing program?*
 - It costs \$160/student/year or \$80/student/semester
 - Payments can be made online at: <https://rolandstory.revtrak.net> or at the central office at 1009 Story Street in Story City

3. *Where do I sign up to participate in the discretionary bus program?*
 - Parents can sign-up in the central office, the form is on the district website at: <https://rolandstory.school/transportation#loaded>

4. *Where can I find the bus stop locations and pick-up and drop-off times?*
 - Maps of the discretionary bus stop locations in each community, along with the pick-up and drop-off times are located on the transportation page on the district website: <https://rolandstory.school/transportation#loaded>

5. *Why are the buses identified by colors?*
 - The buses are identified by color simply to make it easier for students to identify their correct route each day. Drivers may change from day to day, even the bus number may be different from one day to the next, but the color matching the route should stay consistent. It is possible to ride the blue bus in the morning and the red bus in the afternoon, but that process should stay consistent from day to day throughout the school year.

6. *Does the district assign which bus stop location students are picked up from, or can families use any of the bus stops identified in each community?*
 - The district does not assign students to be picked up at a specific stop. Families can choose the stop that works best for them.
7. *If we need to switch morning pick up locations (bus stops) during the school year do we need to notify the school?*
 - It is not necessary to notify the school if your preferred pick up location changes. The district will stop at each bus stop each morning at the designated time.
8. *There are two morning pick up times identified for each bus stop, which time should my kids ride?*
 - If your kids attend school in the same town where they are getting picked up, they can ride at either time listed. Families can choose whichever time works best for them. If your kids attend school in a town different from where they are picked up, they will need to ride at the first time listed. For example, if students are picked up at one of the Story City bus stops, and they attend the elementary school or the high school, they can ride at either morning pick up time. If a student is picked up in Story City, and they attend the middle school, they will need to ride at the first pick up time listed.
9. *How will my student know when to get off the bus after school?*
 - During the first two weeks of school an additional staff member will ride the discretionary bus to assist students in finding the correct stop where they should to be dropped off.
10. *Will the afternoon buses stop at every stop and stick to the listed schedule?*
 - Initially the buses will stop at every stop and the scheduled times should be pretty accurate. As we become more certain as to which students are getting off at each stop, it may be possible to skip some stops where no students are getting off. If this option presents itself, students will get home a little sooner than the times scheduled at the start of the school year.
11. *If you have additional questions who should I contact?*
 - please contact the central office at 515-733-4301, or our transportation director Jeff Wellik at 515-708-1491.