

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD JOINT NO. 1

DEDICATED TO THE SUCCESS OF EACH STUDENT

CITY OF HARTFORD, TOWNS ADDISON, ERIN, HARTFORD – WASHINGTON COUNTY • TOWNS OF ASHIPUN, RUBICON – DODGE COUNTY
HARTFORD, WISCONSIN 53027

August 2024

Parents and Guardians

With the start of school right around the corner, here is some important information regarding student transportation.

Students of the School District of Hartford Joint No. 1 are entitled to transportation to and from their assigned elementary or middle school building if their residence is two miles or more from that school. The distance is determined by the shortest walking route along recognized sidewalks and walkways between the student's residence and the applicable District property. Students are also entitled to transportation if their walk would be considered "unusually hazardous," defined as an existing transportation condition that constitutes more than an ordinary hazard and seriously jeopardizes the safety of pupils traveling to and from school. These areas are determined by the Washington County Sheriff's Department (Please see the Business Services web page for more information.)

Students with disabilities may be eligible for District-provided transportation as designated by their Individualized Education Program.

Students that open enroll into the School District are not eligible for transportation. Students that are approved for a boundary variance to attend a different HJT1 elementary school other than what would be assigned based on their residential address are not eligible for transportation. 4K students that are approved for a schedule variance (aka time of day variance) to a different 4K location are not eligible for transportation.

If your child does not qualify for transportation, your child will not be allowed to ride a school bus unless there is an emergency and the student's school office is notified.

Any permanent changes necessary to your child's transportation plan need to be communicated to the District Administrative Office immediately at 262-673-9033 and implementation requires at least one-week advance notice.

Your student's transportation eligibility and route information is now available in Skyward Family Access. Please log into your account to review the information on file at <https://www.hjt1.org/parents/registration-skyward-family-access>

After you log in, click on the Busing tab on the left-hand side of the screen. You will see information to school and from school if your child is routed for bus transportation.

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 1100 Cedar Street Hartford, WI 53027 Phone: 262-673-8040 FAX: 262-673-7596	LINCOLN SCHOOL 755 S. Rural Street Hartford, WI 53027 Phone: 262-673-2100 FAX: 262-673-0148	ROSSMAN SCHOOL 600 Highland Avenue Hartford, WI 53027 Phone: 262-673-3300 FAX: 262-673-3543	DISTRICT OFFICE 402 W. Sumner Street, Hartford, WI 53027 District Administrator 262-673-3155 FAX: 262-673-3548 Business Manager 262-673-9033 FAX: 262-673-3548 Pupil Services Dir. 262-673-8042 FAX: 262-673-8045
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What if I don't see any information, or the information is incorrect in Skyward Family Access?

It may be one of the following circumstances:

- 1) You have not completed registration for your child. Please contact the Pupil Services department immediately at 262-673-8042 to arrange for the completion of registration documentation and bus transportation will be considered when it is completed.
- 2) Your child does not qualify for bus transportation based on statutory requirements (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/121/iv/54/2>) and board policy (<https://go.boarddocs.com/wi/hfj1/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies#>).
- 3) In most instances it is because your residence is within 2 miles of your neighborhood school. To check, click on <https://www.google.com/maps> and pull up Directions by clicking on the blue and white arrow, enter your address, enter the school your student attends, choose walking (distances are based on the shortest walking route) and the distance will be calculated. If the distance is not 2.0 miles or greater, your child does not qualify based on that criteria. They may or may not qualify under different criteria.
- 4) You told the District during registration that even though you qualified for transportation, your child was either going to walk or be transported by private vehicle. If that is not the case, please call the Business Office immediately at 262-673-9033 to review your student's circumstances.
- 5) If you have a 4K student, a special needs student who qualifies for transportation, or a student who takes accelerated classes at Central MS or at Hartford Union HS, you may not see information yet. GoRiteway is still working through the routing for those students. Continue to check Skyward; it is updated every day. Please call the Business Office with questions or concerns.
- 6) If you don't see any bus information, it may be that there is an error that needs correction. If you believe the child qualifies by either the distance or hazardous conditions criteria, please call the Business Office immediately to review your student's circumstances.
- 7) If there is bus information listed for your student but the pickup or drop-off stop seems incorrect, please call the Hartford GoRiteway terminal at 262-673-3777 or email their staff at hartford@goriteway.com and their staff will be able to assist you and/or correct the information.

What about my child who attends daycare at Sycamore Tree, Happy Hollow or the Dream Center?

Students who attend those facilities before or after school can be transported by the District school buses. The district has received lists of students from the daycares so it can double check against its bus lists. If you're not seeing information in Skyward Family Access that aligns with your plans, please call the Business Office to review your child's circumstances.

If my child doesn't qualify for District bus transportation, what about the "City Bus"?

There is no City Bus, or paid rider, program offered. This program was not sponsored or administered by the School District. It was a program incorporated by the transportation company at that time to drive additional revenue. Six years ago, the transportation company suspended the City Bus program because of staffing shortages and their need to fulfill their contractual requirements. GoRiteway has no plans on implementing such a program in the near future. The School District understands there may be a demand for such a program but

the School District is not responsible for this type of program, only its statutory requirements to transport students as outlined in School Board policy.

Does my child transfer buses on the way to or from school?

Maybe. In order to efficiently transport students and cover all the needs, some students are taken to and/or from their school building directly, while other students take a transfer bus to Central Middle School for their eventual delivery to their school building or to their end-of-day destination. District and transportation company staff are very well trained to manage that process to get your child safely to and from their homes or day care providers and we will work with your child to help them set their routine.

What are the biggest District challenges to providing bus transportation?

The biggest challenge is driver shortages locally and nationally. GoRiteway is eager to meet any responsible person that cares for children and our community that would consider driving a school bus. The second biggest challenge is unacceptable student behavior. Please talk with your child before school starts regarding appropriate bus behavior and share these rules with them. Per School Board Administrative Guideline AG8600, the Rules and Regulations for Bus Riders are:

- A. Stay in your seat at all times.
- B. Keep all parts of your body and all objects inside the bus at all times.
- C. No littering, eating or drinking. Keep the bus safe and clean at all times.
- D. Keep books, packages, instruments, and coats out of the bus aisle.
- E. Do not tamper with or vandalize other riders' property or any bus equipment. Parents will be held responsible for damage caused by a child.
- F. Keep a conversational voice. Do not scream, swear or use disrespectful or abusive language.
- G. Keep your hands and feet to yourself; no hitting, pushing, tripping or spitting. Physical abuse and fighting will not be tolerated.
- H. No pushing or shoving when entering or exiting the bus.
- I. Follow the driver's direction the first time they are given.
- J. In general, conduct yourself in a safe manner and do not endanger the safety and well-being of others on the bus.

The School District has shared our expectations for proper management of student behaviors with GoRiteway. Drivers have been trained in de-escalation and will document behavior infractions from the first day. School staff will deliver consequences consistently and will also regularly ride buses to supervise behavior. Your assistance in setting and upholding high expectations is appreciated. We hope you and your child have a magnificent 2024-25 school year!

Sincerely,



Adam J. Majerus
Director of Business Services
amajerus@hjt1.org