



Transportation—"There and Back Again."

Getting your child back and forth to school safely is our primary goal. Every day we transport over 2100 students in town. Currently Seymour has 15 full size buses, which have a capacity of 77 students, and 6 small vans, which are utilized primarily for transporting local special needs and outplaced students. Our full size buses complete three runs in the morning and another three runs in the afternoon. In the afternoon there are currently eight buses covering the CLS area of town and seven covering BES. To support our after school activities at the Middle School we have one late bus on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This bus covers the entire town with a series of community stops to get the children closer to their homes. The School District is also obligated to provide transportation to high school students attending technical and vo-ag schools. In our case that means transportation to Platt Tech, Emmett O'Brien, Nonnewaug High Schools and Sound School.

Every year, starting in the spring, we move the current students up to the next grade and start enrolling the incoming kindergarten students in our Transfinder software system and the process starts for making bus routes for the next school year. All-Star Transportation Company looks at all of the student addresses, and does an assessment of where stops need to be added or moved to accommodate these changes. Many of our buses at the elementary level are near capacity. Bus runs are designed to equalize both the number of students on the bus and the time the students are on the bus.

There are certain roads in town that are impossible for the bus to safely travel on and the students in those areas are required to walk to the closest main road. The state guidelines are that students in grades K-3 can walk up to 1 mile to a bus stop. We are proud of the fact that in Seymour no elementary student is expected to walk that distance. 85% of our students live closer than .2 of a mile from the closest bus stop. Daycare Transportation requests are due approximately two weeks before school starts. This allows time for the schools and bus drivers to prepare for the upcoming year.

Did you know that by CT State Statute we must allow for a seat on the bus for each student who is eligible to take the bus if even they get dropped off or drive themselves to school?

Did you know that our bus fleet was converted last year to propane, which is better for the environment?

Did you know that our buses are equipped with GPS for our ease of tracking as well as equipped with audio and video cameras for safety?

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Many parents ask about adding stops, especially for kindergarten students, as parents are required to get kindergarteners on and off the bus. As you can appreciate with upwards of 70 students on the bus and every stop taking at least a minute, it is impossible for the bus to stop at all of the individual houses. We strive to have the children on the bus for no more than 30-40 minutes.
- Parents ask about the times posted on the website. The times on the website are approximate times. They actually can vary on any given day, typically by no more than 5 minutes due to road and traffic conditions.
- Parents frequently ask about our day care policy that allows only one pick up and one drop off location. This policy is in place for the safety of your children. For safety reasons, the teachers and bus drivers need to know consistently which children are riding the bus. If we have an issue on a bus, such as a road closure, we need to be able to send messages or make phone calls to alert those parents to the issue.
- My child is going to enroll in a Seymour Recreation Department program before or after school, is busing provided? Bus runs are provided to the LNV Boys and Girls Club by the school system. All other recreation programs may provide their own form of busing to and from those activities. Always confirm when enrolling in those programs what, if any, transportation is being provided and by whom.

If you have any additional questions regarding our policies please feel free to reach out to us for answers. The Transportation information is readily available on our web site at www.seymourschools.org.

Contributed by Pat Boyle and Rick Belden