

New Transportation Information for 2009-10 School Year

The school district is consolidating the operation of its school bus transportation for the 2009-10 school year in order to help control costs. Here are some questions and answers to help you understand how bus routes will affect you.

Q. Who will receive bus transportation?

- **Elementary** – Students who attend their zoned school and live more than two miles from their school will receive regular bus service. Those who attend a school other than their zoned school **will not** receive district bus transportation.
- **Middle School** – Students will receive bus transportation (the same as this school year) whether they attend their zoned school or a non-zoned school.
- **High School** – Students who attend their zoned school and live more than two miles from their school will receive regular bus transportation. Those who attend a non-zoned school will receive arterial bus service (buses that operate on main roads with a limited number of stops).

Q. How will high school students know where the arterial bus stops are located?

A. Arterial bus stops will be posted on the district website in August.

Q. Who else will receive arterial bus transportation?

A. Arterial bus transportation will be provided for countywide magnet and career academy programs for those students who live more than two miles from the school. Arterial bus transportation also will be provided for students attending Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School and Osceola High School if they live more than two miles from the school.

Q. When will transportation postcards be mailed?

A. Transportation postcards will be mailed in August to all eligible elementary students, incoming 6th- and 9th-graders, and **only** to those middle and high school students who rode a bus this school year.

Late Applications Accepted at Magnet, Fundamental and Career Academies

There are still seats available at some elementary and middle school magnets, fundamental middle schools and high school magnet and career academy programs. For parents who are interested in one of these programs, you may contact the school directly to apply. For a list of program descriptions, please visit the district website, www.pcsb.org.

NEW Immunization Requirements

A new State of Florida immunization requirement includes a Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) shot for students entering (or attending) 7th-grade. Students must have this required immunization prior to attending class. A Td will NOT be accepted. For a complete list of requirements, visit the district website, www.pcsb.org.

Follow Pinellas County Schools on Twitter

In an effort to enhance communication with parents, staff and the community, the district has begun posting district news on Twitter. Twitter is the third largest networking and micro-blogging service that lets users send and read other user's updates known as tweets. Sign up to follow district news at www.twitter.com/pcschools.

Planning to Move?

If you move, you are required to give the school your new phone number and provide proof of residency. To update your address and phone number you will first need to have a ParentCONNECTxp User ID and Password (if you don't already have one for another child in your family), which you can get from your child's school.

Then, go online to the Student Reservation System on the district website, www.pcsb.org, log in with your User ID and Password and follow the steps (or use the school computer).

IMPORTANT – It is essential that your school has your child's current address. Bus stop information for 2009-10 will be mailed to families based on the address in school files.

School Registration

Parents of kindergarteners and new students can follow these easy steps to register their child for the 2009-10 school year.

STEP 1: Know Your Zoned School Go online, www.pcsb.org, or call Student Assignment, (727) 588-6210.

STEP 2: Reserve a Seat Go to your zoned or any nearby school to get a ParentCONNECTxp User ID and Password if you do not already have one. Then log on to the Student Reservation System at the school or your home computer.

STEP 3: Register at Your Child's Zoned School Visit the assigned school to deliver the required documents (list of documents can be found on the district website).

REMEMBER – **Open Enrollment Period #2 begins in July for those parents who wish to change schools for their child. Check the district website, www.pcsb.org often for updated information.**