

transportation info & forms

Eagle Ridge Academy Transportation Program | 2023-24

Transportation planning for 2023-24 has begun. Eagle Ridge Academy is happy to announce there will be no increase in transportation fees for the 2023-24 school year. In order to build the best routes, formally communicate the routes, receive feedback from families, and finalize the published routes, we need your timely participation. Signed Transportation Contracts with full payment must be submitted by July 1, 2023. Once the completed contract is signed and full payment is received, your child will be assigned to a bus route.

We are unable to guarantee transportation for your child if the Transportation Contract and full payment are not received by July 1, 2023. Contracts and/or payments received after July 1 will be assessed a \$50 per student late fee and students will be added to transportation as space allows.

Please see the following timeline for important deadlines concerning transportation for the 2023-24 school year:

MAY 15	JUNE 1	JULY 1	AUGUST 1
<p>Building of initial routes. Initial routes will be built using data from students currently using Academy-provided bus service, data from Transportation Change Request Forms, and data from all new students who have requested transportation upon enrollment for the 2023-24 school year.</p>	<p>Initial routes will be published. Eagle Ridge Academy will host a Transportation Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, with school and transportation company managers to provide feedback regarding routes.</p>	<p>All families, new and returning, including those who used Academy-provided transportation for the 2022-23 school year, must complete a 2023-24 Transportation Contract and pay in full to guarantee transportation for the first day of school. Transportation Contracts from the 2022-23 school year will not carry over to the 2023-24 school year. Contracts and payments received after July 1, 2023, will be assessed a \$50 per student late fee and transportation will not be guaranteed for the first day of school. Contracts received without payment will not confirm transportation nor reserve bus placements.</p>	<p>Final routes will be published based on contracts. Additional changes to routes will be made only for safety concerns, not for convenience in location. The Academy reserves the right to make changes to routes that might affect the timing or location of bus stops.</p>

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Students transported within the Hopkins School District will ride at no cost to the families as per MN State Statute. Students transported outside of the Hopkins School District will incur a transportation fee for the 2023-24 school year of \$300 per student with a family cap of \$750. Students who complete an eligible Application for Educational Benefits will qualify for a reduced transportation fee.

Eagle Ridge Academy provides a hub system with centrally located stops within communities. We use a hub system because we transport students within an approximate 700-square-mile area, about triple the area of large local school districts. The Eagle Ridge Academy Board of Directors has chosen to provide transportation to a greater number of students rather than using house-to-house transportation, which would require more than twice as many buses.

We do not guarantee a stop within walking distance of your residence. Bus routes and stop placement are determined by student population density in specific areas, and route length is targeted at a one-hour ride, weather and traffic permitting. This time is considerably shorter than other area charter schools, which often have ninety-minute run times. Please consider that your child may ride the bus for an hour to and from school if you choose Academy-provided transportation.

We limit the ridership on each bus to 65 students on a 77-passenger bus. Students in grades K-5 can expect to sit three to a seat. We plan for students in grades 6-12 to sit two to a seat.

Thank you for your cooperation in the collection of information that ensures accurate planning for our bus routes for the 2023-24 school year. Questions concerning transportation may be submitted to Karen Conner, Operations Manager, kconner@eagleridgeacademy.org.

