



Director of Transportation

WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

27-41 Standish Avenue

West Orange, New Jersey 07052

(973)669-5357

Gregory J. Cohen

Let me take this opportunity to welcome back our returning students and extend a warm welcome to our new students. The entire West Orange transportation team is here to provide safe, efficient and effective transportation services to all our students. We take the safety of your child very seriously and we always ask ourselves what if that was our child.

The truth is school buses are the safest vehicles on the road! According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, children traveling on buses rather than traveling by car are 70 times more likely to get to school safely. Less than 1% of all traffic fatalities involve children on school transportation vehicles per NHTSA Feb 2023

If your child has Individual Education Plan (IEP) and has curb to curb as a related service, be aware as per the IEP and the West Orange Transportation department, curb-to-curb transportation is legally the closest, safest location to the student's home. The transportation department will determine the pick-up and drop-off location based on what is the safest location. The policy of the West Orange Transportation Department is that we do not go down dead end streets or turn around in a cul-de-sac. If the bus needs to back up, that is considered unsafe. In these situations students will be assigned to the safest and closest corner stop to their home. Curb to curb also means the bus can stop in front of your home and the student might need to cross in front of the bus. This can happen on streets that are not major roads.

There is a ten minute window before and after your scheduled pick up and drop off time. The student is required to be on the assigned curb waiting for the school bus, not inside the house. This transportation stops at every home and waiting for your child slows this route down and can cause all students to be late to school.

Please go to the transportation web page (which will be updated throughout the year)

<http://www.woboe.org/bus> and download the My Ride K-12 Application. This will give you the ability to track the location of your bus and the time your bus will arrive at your home. The scan card allows you to track your students time on the bus and so much more. All transportation bus assignments are located in the My Ride K-12 application.

For all out of district families your transportation is provided by outside contractors. These routes are contracted through ESC's and the Co-Op's. The contractors assigned to these route's do not work directly for West Orange-Transportation. But the contractors should be following the same policies we do for bus



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pick up and drop off. The transportation companies assignments will be available on the My Ride K-12 application however there is no bus tracking and the times of pick up will not be accurate. We will post these to the My Ride K-12 Application as soon as it is available. Expect a phone call from the contractor with your busing information.

We are here to help. The best way to contact us is through Email. Every Email will be answered. Calling transportation can be frustrating. There are only 5 phone lines and if we are busy you will be sent to voicemail. Again please Email us at transportation@westorangeschools.org

Sincerely,

**Gregory J. Cohen
Director of Transportation
West Orange Board of Education**