



Transportation Q & A

Thank you for your continued patience as we work hard to resolve our transportation challenges. We sincerely value your feedback as we work to find appropriate solutions. Please consider reviewing the information below for answers to the most frequently asked questions that we have received from our valued community members regarding Transportation.

Q. What are the new hours for each school?

A. Hours have been adjusted for schools in Tiers 1 and 2. Start times for schools in Tier 3 will not be adjusted. School times are as follows:

Tier 1:

Perry Meridian High School

Southport High School

School start time: 7:05 a.m.

School end time: 1:50 p.m.

Note: early dismissal occurs at 1:25 p.m. on Wednesdays

Tier 2:

Perry Meridian 6th Grade Academy

Southport 6th Grade Academy

Perry Meridian Middle School

Southport Middle School

Abraham Lincoln Elementary

Glenns Valley Elementary

Rosa Parks Elementary

Rosa Parks Kindergarten Academy

School start time: 8:00 a.m.

School end time: 2:45 p.m.

Note: early dismissal occurs at 2:20 on Wednesdays



Tier 3

Clinton Young Elementary
Douglas MacArthur Elementary
Homecroft Elementary
Jeremiah Gray Elementary
Mary Bryan Elementary
Winchester Village Elementary

School start time: 9:05 a.m.

School end time: 3:55 p.m.

**Note: early dismissal occurs at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Though school start and end times will not change, pick-up and drop-off times may be adjusted.
Please check Skyward for your child's bus information.**

Henry Burkhart Elementary
Douglas MacArthur Kdg. Academy
Homecroft Kindergarten Academy
Jeremiah Gray Kindergarten Academy
Southport Elementary

Q. When will the new bus routes be available?

A. Updates are now available in Skyward.

Q. Why was it necessary to change bus routes and school hours?

A. Several factors have influenced our decision to adjust school hours and bus routes.

First, we have experienced a larger-than-projected surge in enrollment this year. As the second fastest-growing district in the state, our student body has increased to 16,130 students – an uptick of 707 students from last year. Many new enrollments occurred in the last few days leading up to the start of school. As our enrollment grows, the number of students requiring transportation also grows. Currently, nearly 13,000 students ride Perry Township Schools' buses.



Next, our routes are designed to deliver students as close as possible to their drop-off location in the safest manner. As we welcome more students, the number of stops will increase. Student safety is always a top priority.

Lastly, traffic patterns have also created a challenge for bus drivers. As the southside becomes more populated, traffic flow becomes less efficient, especially on busy roadways like Southport Road. Therefore, earlier start and end times will help bus drivers to get a head start against other morning and evening rush hour commuters.

Q. Will these early start and end times actually be effective?

A. As we have adjusted hours, we have also increased the number of buses that provide service to each tier. We now have 74 buses transporting children to Tier 1 schools, an increase of 10 buses since the first day of school. Students in Tier 2 are being transported by 101 buses, an increase of 5 buses since school began. Students in Tier 3 are now being transported by 102 buses – an additional 7 buses since the start of school.

Q. Why can't the district just go back to the old two-tiered school bus routes?

A. There is a shortage of bus drivers nationwide. Click [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#) for additional information about the challenge. The district's enrollment has exceeded our ability to find enough well-trained, qualified drivers to meet the demand within a two-tiered model – at a time when the hiring pool is minimal.

Q. How long are the new routes?

A. Our goal is to keep routes within a maximum of 45 minutes (approximately).

Thank you for your continued patience.