

What choices do I have?

FWCS will continue to offer its school choice program, in which students can apply to attend any school in the district. However, transportation will not be provided for intra-district transfers. Transportation will continue for magnet schools and high school Programs of Study for students living outside the established No Transportation Zones.

To learn more about our schools, plan to visit during Tuesday Tours:

- Jan. 13, 20, 27
- Elementary Schools: 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m. (Bunche & Towles— 8:30-10:30 a.m. & noon-2 p.m.)
- Middle and High Schools: 8-10 a.m.

Families interested in returning to their geographically assigned school or transferring to a different school must have the school assignment application in by Friday, Feb. 6. If there are more applicants than spaces available at any of the schools, lotteries will be held on Feb. 27 to determine admittance. Application forms are available at www.fortwayneschools.org.

Questions?

Call the
NTZ Hotline at
467-1907
OR
Visit the FWCS
website
fortwayneschools.org
to submit a
question through



WE ARE YOUR SCHOOLS

FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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NTZ

No Transportation Zones

What you need to know about changes to FWCS Transportation options for the 2015-16 school year.



WE ARE YOUR SCHOOLS



What is changing?

A decline in funding is causing Fort Wayne Community Schools to enforce No Transportation Zones (NTZ) beginning in the 2015-16 school year. Students living within established proximities to schools as well as those attending a school other than their geographically assigned school *will not* be transported by FWCS bus.

Transportation *will continue* for magnet schools and high school Programs of Study for students living outside the established NTZ.

This is *not* a change in FWCS policy. FWCS has been generous in making exceptions over time to accommodate families. The FWCS Board of School Trustees policy states that the following students are eligible for transportation:

- Elementary students residing beyond a 1-mile radius from the school they attend
- Middle school students residing beyond a 1.5-mile radius from the school they attend
- High school students residing beyond a 2-mile radius from the school they attend



Why the change?

Property tax caps (also known as the Circuit Breaker) were passed by Indiana legislators in 2008. When they were being considered, FWCS and other districts across the state informed elected officials that they would result in reduced services. This has now come to fruition. Since 2009, the Circuit Breaker has prohibited FWCS from collecting more than \$9 million for Transportation. This is expected to double by 2017.

Public schools are limited in the funds that can be raised to pay for transportation and all other expenses. On top of those limits, the Circuit Breaker reduced funds available even further.

Less funding = fewer services



School Times

In addition to following the NTZ, FWCS is also adjusting start and end time for schools to establish more efficient bus routes. Beginning in 2015-16, school hours will be:

Middle School: 7:20 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

Elementary: 8:20 a.m.-2:55 p.m.

High School: 9:05 a.m.-4:10 p.m.

Time for schools with special schedules, including Bunche, Towles, Anthis and Ward, are still being determined.

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