Transportation Services

Getting to Neighborhood Elementary Schools—district and charter.

Preschool students are eligible for transportation only if they have a disability. See page 188 for help understanding IEPs and 504 plans.

Kindergarten through sixth grade students can take a yellow bus to and from school if they would have more than a one-mile walk. Call 216-838-4BUS year-round to determine your walk distance and route availability. A website and app allow you to track your students bus location using GPS.

Students in seventh and eighth grade are eligible for RTA swipe passes, but can be assigned to a yellow bus if space is available, and/or to keep them with their siblings. These students are eligible if they live in the city and would have more than a one-mile walk to school. You can call the hotline at 216-838-4BUS all year-round to determine your walk distance and eligibility.

Getting to High School

CMSD partners closely with RTA to deliver students safe and sound to school on time every day through their buses, trains, and stations.

Students in grades 9-12 receive combination school ID cards that include an RTA swipe pass to allow them to travel from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays. These are distributed at the school in place of traditional IDs. Students who live in the city and would have more than a one-mile walk from the school are eligible. You can call the hotline at 216-838-4BUS year-round to determine your walk distance and eligibility.

Special situations:

Students with disabilities of all ages are provided with transportation if it’s included in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). See page 188 for details.

If you choose an elementary school outside your neighborhood:

Transportation is not guaranteed for students in schools other than their closest neighborhood school, but staff can work with you to identify available routes. Students at CMSD schools designated as citywide draws catch yellow buses for all grades. These include schools with unique models, and the single-gender elementary schools. You can call the hotline at 216-838-4BUS all year-round, including through the summer to explore your options.

If you don’t live in Cleveland:

There are some addresses outside the city of Cleveland that fall within the footprint of the CMSD—see page 5—and are eligible for transportation as listed above. If you live outside of the CMSD, we are glad to have you but you must make your own transportation arrangements. RTA can help—check out their website or call the RTA Answerline at 216-621-9500.

If you’re staying somewhere temporarily:

You may access transportation services by bus, cab, or van through Project ACT. See page 192 for more information.

We’ll take you there...

State guidelines require transportation only for elementary students who would have a walk of two miles or more, and makes no provision for high school students. CMSD cuts that distance in half, and provides free RTA passes for older students.

Call the transportation hotline

216-838-4287
(or 216-838-4BUS)

to understand your options. Hotline staff are available weekdays through the school year and in the summer.

Busing for all CMSD students and most Cleveland charter school students is coordinated by the CMSD Transportation Department. Their professional staff work closely with school choice and enrollment to offer complete information to families about their options for schools and busing.
Schools in transition

The CMSD is in the process of right-sizing their buildings and program mix to meet the needs of Cleveland families and neighborhoods over the next 5-10 years. This long term plan was developed with community input through the spring of 2019 for elementary needs, and fall for high school needs. It is being implemented now. Schools affected by these plans have notes on their profile pages throughout this guide.

For background information on the planning process, along with updates, visit www.clevelandmetroschools.org/qualityschools.

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East Tech Campus

Programs and career technical education currently offered at East Tech, Jane Addams, New Tech East, and Washington Park will be consolidated onto one campus, with college credit courses offered through High Tech Academy. Students can select a career pathway in the 10th grade.

Glendale Campus

Academic and career technical programs at Glendale High School and Martin Luther King, Jr. High School will be consolidated onto one campus, with college credit courses offered through High Tech Academy. Students can select a career pathway in the 10th grade.

John F. Kennedy Campus

Programs currently offered at John F. Kennedy and Whitney Young high schools will be consolidated onto one campus that features personalized programming in career and college exploration, and a focus on manufacturing, college credit courses through High Tech Academy, and access to advanced placement courses.

West Side High School Campus

This new campus will include two schools. One will expand on the legacy of Garrett Morgan School of Science, exploring light/audio, computer, and mechanical engineering, along with robotics. The second school will focus on social sciences, exploring equity and social justice in urban communities through planning, civics, and media/language arts. Both schools will enjoy strong arts programs, taking advantage of the rich cultural assets of the Near West Side.

To help students and families navigate these changes, the School Choice & Enrollment office is open year-round, ready to understand your unique needs. Just call 216-838-3675.

They work hand in hand with the transportation department to ensure your transportation needs are fully explored.

Read reviews and rate your school at mycleschool.org