



## **Transportation Waiver for Duluth Head Start**

- Voluntary PreK is required to provide transportation to and from school for 4 year olds
- Due to this, we are asking that 4 year old Head Start children also be allowed to ride the bus to and from school. We know transportation can be a significant barrier to accessing preschool for families experiencing poverty.
- We are asking to waive the following Head Start regulations:
  - Restraints 1303.71(d) and 1303.72(a)(1)
  - Monitors 1303.72(a)(4)
- Our Parent Policy Council supports this plan contingent on maintaining the following safety provisions:
  - Preschool children will wear reflective vests making them highly visible to the bus drivers and other staff, both to and from school
  - Preschool children will sit in seats closest to the driver
  - An adult must meet the children at the bus door at drop off, and must bring the child to the bus door at pick up. We encourage parents to establish communication with the driver.
  - If the adult is not the child's parent, it must be someone who the parent designates that may take the child home from the bus stop
  - All Head Start children must participate in a bus safety presentation on the first day of school
  - Riding the bus is voluntary, so parents may choose to self transport if they prefer
  - In order to utilize school district busing, parents sign an authorization form that releases students from the Head Start program to the transportation department of ISD709.

We appreciate your commitment to removing barriers for children whose families are experiencing poverty. Safely getting kids to and from school. We know establishing patterns of regular attendance is very important for school success, and we can directly correlate transportation increased attendance.

By signing below, you are acknowledging that you approve this waiver.

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Jill Lofald, School Board Chair

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Shandi Mickle, Policy Council Chair