



Transportation Waiver for Duluth Head Start FY 2025

- 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.
 - Unfamiliar designated adults must present an ID to the bus driver when picking up a child from the bus.
 - 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.
 - The number of four year olds varies from year to year, but on average, 80 preschool children ride the bus on any given day.

We appreciate your commitment to removing barriers for children whose families are experiencing poverty by safely getting preschool children 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 this waiver has been approved.

Jill Lofald, School Board Chair

Scott Longaker, Policy Council Chair