

Pivot Charter School Transportation Plan (2025–2026 School Year)

Purpose and Overview

Pivot Charter School provides complimentary bus transportation for eligible students as a courtesy service to support equitable access to education. While charter schools are not required to provide transportation, Pivot offers this service to reduce barriers for families residing in the Riverview and Brandon areas. Transportation is provided through a contracted third-party provider that meets all state safety and operational standards.

The school's transportation system is designed to ensure that all students arrive safely, promptly, and ready to learn while maintaining clear expectations for communication, conduct, and family partnership.

Service Model and Eligibility

- **Type of Service:** Hub-style transportation system utilizing designated pickup and drop-off locations within approximately five miles of students' residences.
 - **Eligibility:** Seats are prioritized based on completed Transportation Interest Forms submitted prior to each school year. Seats are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis; submission of an interest form does not guarantee placement.
 - **Stop Assignment:** Bus routes and stops are determined annually based on the location of enrolled students and overall ridership demand. Stops are not door-to-door but are established at centralized, safe, and accessible locations.
 - **Communication:** Assigned routes, stop locations, and pickup times are communicated to families via email prior to the start of the school year.
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Roles and Responsibilities

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Transport students to and from the assigned stop; families should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to scheduled pickup.
- Reinforce bus safety and behavior expectations with students.
- Ensure alternate transportation plans are in place in the event of route changes or delays.

Student Expectations

Riding the bus is a privilege. Students must adhere to Pivot's Student Handbook at all times—all school rules apply both at bus stops and on the bus.

Students are expected to:

- Follow the driver's directions immediately and respectfully.
- Remain seated and keep aisles clear while the bus is in motion.
- Speak respectfully; no profanity, inappropriate language, or yelling.
- Keep hands, feet, and belongings to themselves.
- Refrain from eating, drinking, vaping, or using tobacco products on the bus.

Repeated or serious behavior violations may result in loss of transportation privileges. Families will be notified of concerns, and disciplinary actions will align with school policy.

School Oversight

Pivot maintains an on-site Bus Liaison (dflintroy@pivotcharterschool.com) who coordinates with the transportation company, assists families, and monitors communication regarding routes, incidents, or changes.

Transportation Provider and Route Management

Pivot Charter School contracts with a licensed, insured third-party transportation company responsible for:

- Developing and maintaining bus routes and schedules.
- Assigning qualified drivers who meet all state certification and background requirements.
- Conducting routine safety inspections and maintaining compliance with state transportation regulations.
- Communicating route updates and delays directly to the school's liaison for dissemination to families.

Pivot maintains regular contact with the provider to monitor service quality and ensure student safety.

Safety and Conduct Expectations

All safety regulations set forth by the Florida Department of Education and the transportation provider are enforced. Drivers receive training on student management, emergency procedures, and defensive driving.

Pivot emphasizes partnership between school staff, parents, and the transportation provider to ensure:

- Safe and orderly boarding and exiting procedures.
- Consistent supervision at bus stops.
- Immediate response to incidents or safety concerns.

Emergency Procedures and Safety Drills

The transportation provider conducts annual emergency evacuation drills in compliance with state law. Drivers are trained in emergency response, first aid, and communication protocols. In the event of an accident, delay, or emergency, the driver will contact dispatch immediately, who will then notify Pivot Charter School's administration and Bus Liaison. Families will be informed as soon as the information is verified. Pivot coordinates with local law enforcement and first responders when necessary to ensure student safety.

Communication and Notifications

- Families receive route assignments, updates, and delay notifications via email and/or text message.
 - The timeliness of updates depends on information received from the transportation provider; Pivot communicates information to families as soon as it is available.
 - The school encourages all families to maintain a backup transportation plan, particularly at the start of the year when routes may adjust.
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Transportation Stipend Option

In accordance with House Bill 5101, families of K–8 students attending Pivot Charter School may qualify for the Step Up for Students Transportation Stipend, which provides up to \$750 per household to offset transportation expenses. Eligibility and application information are available through the Step Up for Students website. Pivot is not affiliated with or responsible for stipend administration.

Alternative Transportation Options

Pivot Charter School acknowledges that its hub-style service may not accommodate every family. To support accessibility, the school provides information on alternative options including:

- **Carpooling:** Coordination among families living in nearby neighborhoods.
- **Public Transit:** HART Bus service operates near Pivot's campus (corner of Falkenburg & Causeway). Discounted or free student farecards may be available by contacting HART at (813) 254-4278.

- **Walking or Biking:** Encouraged when safe and practical, under parental supervision.
 - **Independent Providers:** Families may independently contract with third-party services such as Bukkaroo, Kids Door-to-Door, or Trusted Cabby. Pivot is not affiliated with these companies and assumes no liability for their services.
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Service Limitations

- Transportation capacity is limited; ridership is reassessed midyear to ensure efficiency and safety.
 - Routes and stops may be adjusted due to changes in enrollment, residence, or low ridership.
 - Students who withdraw or move outside the service area forfeit eligibility for transportation.
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Monitoring, Feedback, and Continuous Improvement

Pivot monitors transportation effectiveness through:

- Quarterly service reviews with the contracted provider.
- Family feedback surveys each semester.
- Incident and attendance data analysis to identify route or behavioral issues.

Findings are reviewed by school leadership and the governing board to guide operational improvements and ensure compliance with safety and equity expectations.

Equity and Access Commitment

Pivot Charter School's transportation system supports equitable access for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background or family circumstance. By offering complimentary bus service, publishing route information transparently, and maintaining the Family Support Center to assist with transportation stipends or alternative options, Pivot ensures that lack of transportation does not limit a student's ability to attend school and succeed.

Acknowledgement

All students and families who utilize Pivot Charter School's bus transportation service are required to review and acknowledge this Transportation Plan at the start of each school year.

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Acknowledgement of the Transportation Plan is completed as part of the annual Transportation Interest/Sign-Up Form. By submitting the form, families confirm that they have read, understood, and agreed to the terms outlined in this document.

By completing the Transportation Interest/Sign-Up Form, families acknowledge that:

1. They have reviewed and understand the expectations and responsibilities outlined in this Transportation Plan.
2. They will ensure their student follows all school rules at bus stops and on the bus.
3. They understand that transportation is a privilege contingent upon safe and respectful conduct.
4. They accept that routes and stops may change based on operational needs and ridership.
5. They agree to keep contact information current for timely communication regarding routes, schedules, and service updates.

Bus transportation requests submitted after the start of the school year may be made directly to the Transportation Liaison via email. Late requests are processed on a space-available basis and may require up to five business days for confirmation. The submitted Transportation Interest/Sign-Up Form serves as the official record of acknowledgment and is maintained by the Transportation Liaison for compliance and reference throughout the school year.

Contact Information

Transportation Liaison:

Mr. Daryl Flintroy

Email: dflintroy@pivotcharterschool.com

Phone: (813) 656-6724

Location: Pivot Charter School