

## **5.002 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

At Riverside Leadership Academy, we are dedicated to providing a nurturing and accessible educational environment that aligns with our foundational principles of leadership, community engagement, and project-based learning. Our Transportation Plan is crafted to ensure every student has reliable and safe access to our transformative educational experience. This plan embodies our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that every family within our community can benefit from the unique learning opportunities RLA offers, regardless of their geographical location or personal circumstances. By facilitating efficient transportation solutions, we aim to support our students' academic journey and foster a sense of belonging and community within RLA.

- I. **Bus Transportation:** RLA is committed to establishing efficient bus routes to ensure student accessibility and punctuality.
  - A. RLA plans to introduce two main bus routes enabling comprehensive coverage across the community. Beginning in May, parents are encouraged to register their children for bus service, with seat allocation based on a first-come, first-served approach to ensure fairness.
  - B. Specific drop zones will be established in accessible public locations such as shopping centers, churches, and community centers, facilitating convenient pickups for families.
    1. The administration will select drop zones based on proximity to student concentrations and will continuously assess their safety and effectiveness.
  - C. RLA is dedicated to optimizing travel times, ensuring that no student spends more than fifty minutes on the bus during morning or afternoon commutes. RLA buses are scheduled to arrive at school at least ten minutes before the start of the day, facilitating a smooth transition to class. In the afternoon, bus riders will be prioritized for dismissal, streamlining their journey home and maintaining a consistent and efficient end-of-day routine.
  
- II. **Carpools:** RLA encourages families to collaborate in forming carpools, promoting a community-centric approach to student transportation. Recognizing the diverse needs of our families, RLA is committed to supporting and facilitating carpool arrangements, ensuring that all students have dependable access to education.
  - A. *Carpool Arrangement Support:*
    1. Starting in May, families can indicate their interest in joining or forming a carpool through a designated platform provided by RLA. This initiative is aimed at fostering community cooperation and reducing the environmental impact of daily commutes.
    2. RLA will assist in connecting families seeking carpool partners, leveraging school resources to help identify potential matches and coordinate logistics.
  - B. *Carpool Registration and Communication:*

1. Families involved in carpools will need to register their arrangement with the school to ensure all participants are recognized and accounted for in our transportation system.
  2. Consistent communication with the school is essential for any changes or updates in the carpool arrangement to ensure the safety and well-being of all students.
- C. *Support for Families Unable to Arrange Carpools:*
1. RLA acknowledges that some families may face challenges in establishing a carpool. In such instances, the school will provide additional support to identify viable transportation solutions, underscoring our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.
  2. The school will explore various options, including connecting these families with existing carpools or assisting in forming new ones, to ensure no student is without a means to reach school.
- D. *Ongoing Evaluation and Feedback:*
1. RLA will continuously assess the effectiveness of the carpool system, welcoming feedback from families to improve and adapt the process. This ongoing dialogue will ensure that the carpool initiative remains responsive to the needs of our school community.

By fostering a supportive carpool culture, RLA aims to enhance our students' educational experience through increased community engagement and shared responsibility, aligning with our broader mission to create a collaborative and inclusive learning environment.

- III. **Car Riders:** Families have the option to personally transport their children to and from RLA.
- A. Families are required to obtain a car rider tag, which must be prominently displayed in their vehicle during pickup. This system ensures the safety and security of our students by allowing school staff to quickly and accurately identify authorized vehicles. To acquire a car rider tag, families must submit an application through the school's designated channel. Upon approval, RLA will issue up to two car tags per family, ensuring convenience for dual-car households or alternate transportation arrangements. In the event that a family needs to modify their pickup routine, it is imperative that they notify the school in advance to receive authorization for the new plan, maintaining a secure and orderly dismissal process. Should there be a need for additional or replacement tags beyond the initial two, families can request them for a nominal fee. This policy is part of RLA's broader commitment to providing a safe, organized, and efficient transportation system for all students and their families.
- IV. **Special Transportation for EC Students:** RLA is dedicated to accommodating students with special transportation needs by exploring various options:

- A. Partnering with Craven Area Rural Transport System (CARTS) for students on existing routes.
  - B. Contracting with specialized transport services for students with unique requirements.
  - C. Acquiring or leasing a bus equipped for special needs transportation and hiring a qualified driver for these routes.
- V. **Policy Adaptability:** Acknowledge that the plan is subject to change based on family feedback and logistical needs, ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to the community's needs.
- VI. **Additional Resources:** Refer to RLA Student/Family Handbook for additional information.