

Transportation Update for St. Croix Prep Families from Stillwater

Dear St. Croix Prep Families,

We want to share some updates related to the transportation plan with Stillwater that reflects feedback from our families and staff, supports updated school hours, and helps the district improve efficiency and reduce costs. Here's what you need to know:

School Hours for 2026–27

Our school hours will be changing for next fall to 8:35 a.m. – 3:05 p.m. We're excited to adjust our hours to better reflect the needs of our students and families!

A new transportation model for St. Croix Prep students

St. Croix Prep students will now:

- Ride on routes with district middle and high school students
- Transfer buses at a school location before continuing to St. Croix Prep or coming home

In the morning, transfers will take place at the high school. In the afternoon, transfers will take place at the middle schools.

This is a change from the current model, and student safety is our top priority. Transfers will be closely supervised by staff at the transfer locations. This transfer process has been used successfully in the past and is designed to be safe, efficient, and easy for students to follow.

We know this is a new experience for St. Croix Prep families. To help students feel comfortable and confident, families will be invited to a special event in August to visit a transfer location and walk through the process with their child before the school year begins. We'll share more information with you in the future.

Expect changes to stops and times

Because all routes have been redesigned and school hours are changing, most families should expect changes to bus stop locations and pick-up and drop-off times. Bus route details will be shared in late July.

Centralized neighborhood stops

Many students will be assigned to centralized stops. This may mean walking farther, but allows buses to make fewer stops and helps keep ride times shorter. Stops are also designed to remain consistent from year to year.

One consistent stop per student

Students will have one assigned morning stop and one afternoon stop.

Walk/No Bus Zones

The district has updated walk/no bus zones to better align with transportation guidelines. As a result, some students who previously received busing may now fall within the walk zone and will no longer qualify for transportation. Families impacted by this change were notified earlier this spring.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility as these updates are implemented, and we remain committed to supporting students and families throughout this transition.