

Policies regarding unaccompanied minor age requirement

Information compiled September 1, 2005

The Question: Do you have a policy regarding the age a minor can ride the bus unaccompanied by an adult? If so, at what age can unaccompanied children ride the bus?

Ben Franklin Transit says... The only minimum age we have is 5 and under is free when accompanied by an adult. But I guess if the child pays 55 cents in theory they could ride. We have had groups of children, say one 12 yr old with 2 or 3 little ones, and they try to board with only the oldest paying. We discourage that because we become a baby sitting service. Also, if the driver feels the situation is leaving young children in an unsafe way, they can call a supervisor and that supervisor will try to get contact with a parent, teacher, guardian or sitter. So, we don't have any hard and fast rule. I have forwarded this question to our Prosser Operations who deals in a more hands on way and I know they have very young children. I will forward what I get from them to you too.

Clallam Transit says... We do not have a policy regarding what age a child may ride the bus unaccompanied.

CUBS says... We do not have a written policy but we would let them ride alone at age 6. At age 6, we do charge a fare for the child to ride.

Everett Transit says... Everett Transit's age of independent travel on fixed route and paratransit service is 5 years of age. Children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a person capable of caring for the child under the age of 5.

Grays Harbor Transit says... No we do not have a written policy regarding unaccompanied children.

Intercity Transit says... At Intercity Transit we do not have a minimum age for solo riders. If there is a problem, a supervisor would investigate and make a determination as to the need for an attendant. Twelve years ago we had an appeal of our requirement of an attendant for a paratransit rider traveling to a head start program. Our requirement was based solely on the age of the client, who I believe was around 5 or 6. We lost the appeal and the client use our service without incident for years.

Island Transit says... Our policy is 'Children under 6 must be accompanied by a responsible guardian.'

Kitsap Transit says... We have no minimum age requirement. Our policy implies that a customer has the responsibility to board, pay fare, and signal their destination. Our staff are trained to observe anyone that is having difficulty, or giving other indicators they are not self reliant or authorized to travel alone. They then attempt to assist, report it, and or alert the proper authorities. We do not accept passengers with "delivery notes" or take responsibility to assume care over a passenger. Passenger abandoned or that become incapacitated, or otherwise unable to care for themselves are turned over to the proper authority or health care professional. In short our only requirement is that our passengers conduct themselves responsibly, pay fare and can basically take care of themselves, they're allowed to ride.

Link Transit says... Children six and older may ride without adults.

Mason Transit says... Mason Transit requires children 7 and younger to be accompanied by an adult, 18 years or older. Children 8 and older can ride unaccompanied.

Pacific Transit says... We require any child 6 years and under to be accompanied by an adult or an individual at least 13 years of age. This is on our fixed route as well as dial a ride.

Pullman Transit says... Our policy is that they need to be over 6 years old to ride without an adult. Basically in the first grade.

Skagit Transit says... Skagit Transit has no written policy or procedure on this. We have, since inception, required anyone looking to be too young to ride alone, (Approximately 6-7 yrs. of age) to be accompanied by an adult.

We have had only a few incidents of this, but on those occasions we have asked the potential rider their phone number so we can verify through dispatch that their parents know they are on our bus system. When we have asked, the rider has said never mind and chose not to ride.

Good reminder however, we will look at this for our system as well!

Spokane Transit says... At Spokane Transit we do have a minimum age written into our tariff policy and referenced in our Operator Guide as part of the tariff rule. A responsible individual must accompany a child under six. Children under six ride free.

Twin Transit says... Twin Transit policy is that children under 6 years must be accompanied by an adult. This is printed on our schedules/route map as part of Twin Transit's bus rules.

Valley Transit says... Children who are 5 and under are required to be accompanied by an older child or adult. We consider an older child to be at least 12 years old.

Whatcom Transit says... At the Whatcom Transportation Authority, we've left it at Operator discretion. Historically, I don't recall it being a problem.