

Prairie Crossing Charter School
Board of Director's Policy

Policy: 700.2

Auxiliary Services

**Prairie Crossing Charter School
Transportation Plan**

The Prairie Crossing Charter School transportation plan is closely aligned with the school's size, environmental philosophy, dual district boundaries and finances. Door to door bus service for all students will not be offered, since the Charter Schools Law exempts Prairie Crossing from this requirement except for special needs students.

Prairie Crossing Charter School is situated at the far corner of each district. Its students may come from anywhere in a 63 square mile area. It simply cannot commit to door to door bus service. However, being committed to welcoming a diverse array of students from throughout the districts, Prairie Crossing Charter School will coordinate a car pool program designed to address the needs of families beyond walking or biking distance (which is greater than usual given a regional network of trails). The parents of children who are at risk or who are from low income families may be unable to take part in the car pool program. It is important to provide a means by which these children can attend Prairie Crossing Charter School. One of the principles on which the school is founded is the belief that children can learn to respect a diverse group of people by learning next to them and becoming friends with them. The following options will be provided for parents of at risk and low income children who wish to send their children to Prairie Crossing Charter School but cannot take part in the car pool program.

1. Parent volunteers will be sought to pick up and drop off the children whose parents cannot take part in the car pool program. In this way, these children will arrive at school in the same manner as other children and will not be singled out in any way that may make them feel different from other children attending the school.
2. If no parent volunteers can be found to pick up and drop off children and there are only a few children that need transportation, Prairie Crossing Charter School will hire a person to pick up and drop off these children using his or her car. In this case, Prairie Crossing Charter School would register with the Illinois Secretary of State as a School Bus Driver Employer. Prairie Crossing Charter School will insure that the person obtains and maintains a valid bus driver permit. This includes
 - an initial classroom course for school bus drivers;
 - a minimum of two hours classroom training annually related to driving responsibilities;
 - participation in a Federally required drug and alcohol testing program, possessing a valid and properly classified Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a Passenger Endorsement and properly classified school bus driver permit;
 - completion and certification of a passed annual physical examination on a form prescribed by and available from the Secretary of State's Office; and
 - Criminal background check including fingerprinting through the Illinois State Police.

Prairie Crossing Charter School will further insure that any vehicle used to transport children by an employee meets the requirements for a Division I vehicle. Under no circumstances will a

Division II vehicle be used to transport students to and from school. All vehicles will have proof of adequate insurance on file at PCCS and will complete a safety inspection every six months at an Official Testing Station regulated by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

3. If the number of children needing transportation is large enough, Prairie Crossing Charter School will lease a school bus to transport the children to and from school. The Director of Prairie Crossing Charter School or his/her designee will obtain documentation from the bus company insuring that the drivers used hold valid bus driver permits and that their buses are maintained and inspected as required. In this case the Director of PCCS or his/her designee will do the following to insure the safety of school bus-transported children:
 - Supervise school bus emergency evacuation drills for all bus-riding students on school property twice annually and maintain documentation;
 - Insure classroom instruction in safe bus-riding practices by classroom teachers for all bus-riding students twice annually including the dangers in the loading and unloading zone and maintain documentation; and
 - Insure that all bus-riding students have copies of bus-riding rules which include the consequences for gross disobedience or misconduct.

Adoption Dates: 15 December 2003