

# Transportation Services

## Alternative Solution

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# POLICY

Effective Date: 12/01/2024

### Statement of Philosophy

This policy is one strategy to address the shortage of school bus drivers in our communities. Historically, Kids Central has met the transportation needs of Head Start children who are enrolled in our part-year program by providing school buses services. However, there is a school bus driver shortage in our service area and Kids Central's ability to provide transportation is limited. This policy allows Kids Central to continue services where there is not a qualified school bus driver to do the daily bus routes. The following policy and procedures are an alternative solution to the lack of qualified school bus drivers. This policy was revised in November 2024 to include the children whose center had to close in their home town of Haysi and moved to Clintwood center.

### Procedure:

1. An eligible family is a primary caregiver (listed on the child's enrollment application) or their designee who has a child or children enrolled at a Head Start Preschool center that does not have a bus driver to transport to and from the child's home to the center.
2. Child must attend every scheduled day of the week to be eligible to receive a gas card. Must be present on site every day to qualify.
3. When an eligible child attends each scheduled day of the week, the family (primary caregiver) will receive a \$25.00 gas card as an alternative solution when transportation services cannot be provided by Kids Central.
4. Cards will be given out on Friday or the last scheduled day of the week that the center is open. For example, the card will be given out on Tuesday, the week of the Thanksgiving holiday since classrooms will be closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that week.

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5. Only the designated family members may pick up the gas card. Signatures are required to receive the gas card.
  6. Families who transport two or more children will only be eligible for one gas card per week.
  7. The gas card amount may be reviewed annually during budget planning by the Policy Council and Board of Directors, who have the authority to increase or decrease the amount per week.
  8. Gas cards will be given to the classroom teacher for distribution to eligible families. Cards will be stored in a locked cabinet or safe. A change of custody will be maintained.

#### Related Regulations

Head Start Program Performance Standards 1303 Subpart F – Transportation