

# HOW TO RIDE *THE BUS*



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**Lesson Planner**



**HOP ON BOARD**

# How To Ride the Bus



## Included

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How To Ride Lesson  
Test Your Knowledge  
Answer Key

Find more at:  
[PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources](https://www.piercetransit.org/youthridershipresources)



Scan the QR code to check out some interactive videos on how to ride Pierce Transit

## Teaching Instructions

This lesson intends to give students the necessary information to obtain an ORCA card and use Pierce Transit services confidently. There are a few things to note during this lesson:

The "FIND MORE AT" website is a direct link to our Pierce Transit Youth Ridership Resources page on the Pierce Transit website. Here, there are several fun, tutorial-style videos on how to ride the bus along with an interactive EdPuzzle video that utilizes integrated quiz questions. Each of the YouTube videos featured on this page has full translation capabilities for those who need it, but the EdPuzzle video is only available in English.

The questions on the Test Your Knowledge page can be answered by reading the information pages at the beginning of this lesson or watching the videos.

For teachers and administrators, please refer to the attached learning standards for middle and high school relating this lesson to science and social studies. We hope all willing and able youth riders will gain confidence to ride Pierce Transit services!

# Learning Standards



## How to Ride the Bus - Middle School

**Social studies standards in Washington state typically cover a range of topics related to history, geography, civics and economics. To align these standards with transit, you can explore various aspects:**

**Geography:** Discuss how geography influences transportation networks in the state, such as the role of natural features (rivers, mountains, etc.) in shaping transportation routes.

**History:** Examine the historical development of transportation in Washington, including the growth of railroads, highways and waterways and their impact on the state's development.

**Civics:** Explore the role of government in regulating and funding transportation infrastructure, as well as the civic responsibilities related to transportation safety and usage.

**Economics:** Analyze the economic aspects of transit, including its impact on trade, employment and local economies.

By incorporating these topics into the curriculum, you can align Washington state middle school social studies standards with transit and help students understand the broader context of transportation within the state.

Science standards in Washington state typically cover a range of topics related to physical science, earth science, life science and engineering and technology. To align these standards with transit, you can explore various aspects:

**Physical Science:** Explore the principles of physics related to transportation, such as Newton's laws of motion, friction and energy transfer. Discuss how these principles apply to different modes of transportation, including cars, bicycles and public transit.

**Earth Science:** Investigate the environmental impact of transportation, including topics like pollution, climate change and their effects on the planet. Discuss sustainable transportation options and their role in reducing environmental impact.

**Life Science:** Examine the biological aspects of transportation, such as the health effects of various modes of transportation, including walking, cycling and the impact of air pollution on human health.

**Engineering and Technology:** Discuss the engineering and technology behind transportation systems, including the design of vehicles, traffic control systems and the use of digital technologies for efficient transit management.

By incorporating these topics into the curriculum, you can align middle school science standards with transit, allowing students to explore the scientific principles and real-world applications of transportation in Washington state.

[PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources](https://PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources)

# Learning Standards



## How to Ride the Bus - High School

**Social studies standards in Washington state cover geography, history, civics and economics. To align these standards with transit, you can explore various aspects.**

**Geography:** Explore the impact of transportation on global, national and local economies. Discuss the role of transportation in trade, urbanization and globalization.

**History:** Examine the historical development of transportation infrastructure in Washington state and its connection to major historical events, such as the expansion of the transcontinental railroad.

**Civics:** Discuss the government's role in regulating and funding transportation, including the policies related to public transportation and infrastructure development.

**Economics:** Analyze the economic implications of various transportation modes, the cost-benefit analysis of infrastructure projects and transportation policy decisions.

By incorporating these topics into the curriculum, you can align Washington state high school social studies standards with transit and help students understand the broader context of transportation within the state.

**Science standards in Washington state cover physical science, earth science, life science and engineering and technology. To align these standards with transit, you can explore various aspects.**

**Physical Science:** Delve deeper into the physics of transportation, including advanced concepts in mechanics, aerodynamics and vehicle design. Explore the role of technology in improving transportation efficiency and safety.

**Earth Science:** Investigate the environmental impact of transportation in greater detail, focusing on topics such as air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Examine sustainable transportation solutions and their impact on the environment.

**Life Science:** Study the health effects of transportation on a more advanced level, considering the public health implications of various modes of transportation and the role of public policy in promoting health-conscious transit options.

**Engineering and Technology:** Explore advanced engineering principles behind transportation systems, including emerging technologies in autonomous vehicles, high-speed rail and smart city transportation solutions.

By aligning these subjects with transit, high school students can gain a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between transportation, society and science in the context of Washington state.

[PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources](https://PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources)

# PLANNING A *TRIP*

Planning your trip on public transportation can look a few ways, but always follows the same formula.

Whether you use the trip planner on [PierceTransit.org](http://PierceTransit.org), call Pierce Transit Customer service, or use the Transit app on your mobile device, all you'll need to input is where you're starting and your destination.

If you want to plan your trip for a different day or different time, any of those options will help you plan for that, too.

Find more at:  
[PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources](http://PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources)



## ORCA Card

You can get your youth ORCA card at Pierce Transit's Customer Service Center at **505 E. 25th Street Tacoma, WA 98421** or by ordering online at [myorca.com](http://myorca.com).



Be sure to have an adult help you register your ORCA card number at [myorca.com](http://myorca.com) with your birthdate. Since fares are free for anyone 18 and under, once it's registered, your ORCA card will know not to ask for money until you turn 19.

# How to Ride the Bus

Check the bus reader board for helpful route information.



## Safety

Learning something new and utilizing a new resource can bring about questions. If you wanted to make sure you were getting on the correct bus for your destination, saw something you thought was out-of-the-ordinary, or simply had a question about using transit, our Public Safety Officers and Operators will always be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.



## Bus Info

If you're worried about getting on the right bus, there's a few ways to tell what route you're getting on. The route number can be found on the **bus reader board** above the windshield as it's approaching, on the bus stop sign, and also on whatever trip planning method you choose to use.



Still unsure?  
Confirm with your bus driver as you board that this is the route you need.

Find more at:  
[PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources](https://www.piercetransit.org/youthridershipresources)

## Awareness

While using transit, it's important to keep track of everything you brought aboard the bus. We suggest putting your ORCA card in a zippered pocket, or someplace safe and stowing your backpack at your feet.



Another great way to stay aware while traveling, is to track your journey on your phone. You can follow along via the bus's audio announcements, text announcements and on the Transit app.



# FINISHING A TRIP

Once you notice that the next stop is your stop, pull the **yellow cord** located along the inside of the bus's windows.

You'll hear a ding, and the operator will know to stop at the next stop. As the bus pulls over for your stop, begin gathering your belongings.

Double-check that you have everything you need, wave and thank your driver, and disembark at the back of the bus.

Find more at:  
[PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources](https://www.piercetransit.org/youthridershipresources)



# Test Your Knowledge



## Answer Key



1. Name three ways to plan a trip.

Transit app, Trip Planner website, call Customer Service

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2. What are three ways to be an aware traveler?

Keep your ORCA card secured, track your journey and keep track of all personal belongings

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3. How do you request a stop?

Pull the yellow cord located along the bus windows

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4. What should you always do before leaving the bus?

Make sure you have your belongings and say thank you to the driver

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5. What does it cost for someone 18 and younger to ride Pierce Transit services?

FREE!!!

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6. Where is the route number displayed?

On the bus reader board, the bus stop sign and on your planning method

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7. Where can you get an ORCA card?

Online at [myorca.com](http://myorca.com), your school office or customer service at Tacoma Dome Station

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