

Transportation

Frequently Asked Questions • 2006-2007

State law requires public school districts to provide free transportation to all students living two miles or more from their school. Mounds View Public Schools meets this requirement. In addition, the District offers a fee-for-service option. All students who do not live in the “walk area” and reside less than two miles from their school have the option for bus service by paying the fee. A “walk area” is less than one mile for secondary school students, half a mile for elementary students, and 1,400 feet for kindergarten students.

What is the fee for service?

A fee-based option is available for those students who live less than two miles from school. The fee for 2006-2007 is \$200 per student, if paid before June 9, 2006, with a family cap of \$500 per year. If paid after June 9, the fee is \$225, and the family cap remains the same. New families registering after June 9 will still be charged the \$200 fee per student. This fee may be paid by check or charged to VISA or MasterCard.

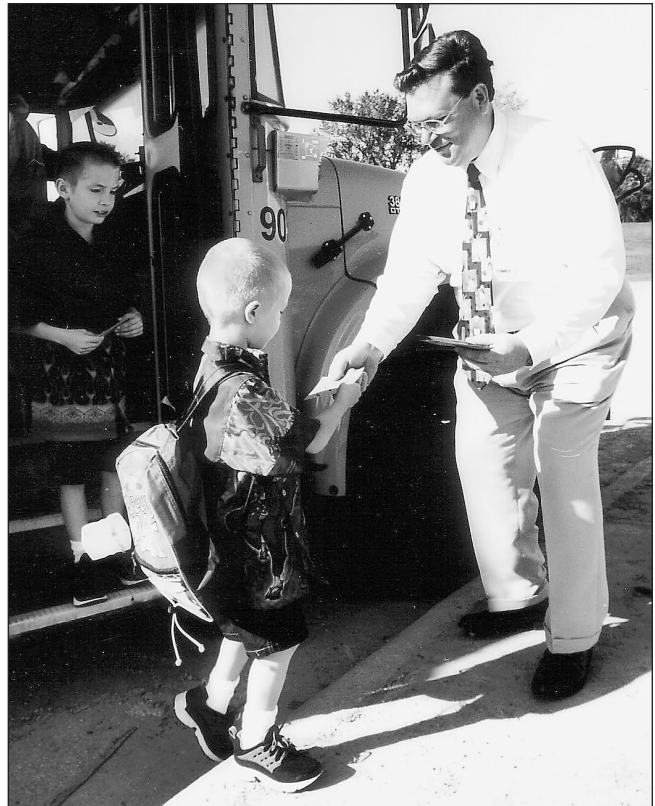
Anyone seeking transportation service within two miles must complete an application form and submit the appropriate fee for service. Students will receive postcards in August with the bus number, stop location and times. These postcards will be each student’s bus pass. If the fee is paid after January 1, 2007, the fee is \$125 per student with a \$275 family cap. These “second semester” registrations will be accepted only if space is available on the bus. The fee for a new family registering after January 1 will be \$100 per student.

Why not charge all students a bus fee?

State Law (MN Statute 123B.88) requires districts to provide free transportation to all students living two miles or more from their school. Any bus service for students who live within two miles of school exceeds the state-mandated requirement. The District is providing service within two miles, for a fee, to accommodate parents’ requests for transportation assistance.

How do you determine the two-mile service area?

The two-mile zones are determined by geographical mapping that considers the most direct street routes between schools and homes. For more information, call 651-639-6200.



Can students within a walk area receive bus service?

A walk area is less than one mile for secondary school students, half a mile for elementary students, and 1,400 feet for kindergarten students. Students who live within these distances cannot receive transportation, unless their walk area contains a designated hazardous area. Then, those students can receive transportation for a fee.

Why do high school students need to register to ride the bus?

Due to the number of high school students that arrange other transportation to and from school, high school students currently in grades nine through 11 who wish to ride the school bus are required to register for bus transportation. This registration helps the District provide efficient busing and applies to students living more than two miles from their high school. Incoming freshmen (students who are currently in grade eight) will be automatically registered.

Are there opportunities for financial assistance?

Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch can receive a fee waiver. Applications for Educational Benefits are available at your child's school, at the District Food Service Office (651-639-6011) or on the Food Service web page on the web site www.moundsvIEWSchools.org. In addition to completing the Educational Benefits Application Form, families must also complete the "Information on Waiver of Bus Fee" which is on the back of the Transportation Registration Form.

Is transportation available to daycare facilities?

If a student's daycare facility is beyond two miles of the school, transportation will be free. If the facility is within two miles of the school, transportation will be available for a fee.

Can students list more than one stop?

A student may have one pick-up address, one drop-off address and one alternate address. This allows parents to have their child ride the bus to or from a day care address on certain days and then ride to or from their home address on alternate days. If any of these addresses are less than two miles from school, there will be a fee. It will be the parent's responsibility to be sure the student knows which address to go to on which days. The bus drivers and school staff will not be able to maintain schedules for a student.



Can my child ride home with a friend or use another bus stop?

The bus pass indicates the exact stop location students should be using. Drivers are not to determine which stops require a fee. If students were able to use their pass for any bus and be able to get on or off at any stop, there would be no way of implementing stops that require a fee for the bus service. Therefore, students may not ride any bus and must get on and off at their stop only.

Does my child need to keep the bus pass all year?

Yes, please have your child keep the pass in his/her backpack. This is helpful for all substitute drivers and for activity buses at the secondary level.

Will families affected by school closings get free transportation to their new schools?

The same services apply for these families as for those not affected by school closings. Students living two miles or more from their school will receive free transportation. A fee-based option is available for students who live less than two miles from school.

Who can receive transportation?

By law, the District is required to offer free transportation to resident students who live two miles or more from school.

	Free transportation	Fee-for-service
Residents	Provided if the student resides two miles or more from the school in their attendance area.	Available if the student resides within two miles of school in their attendance area.*
Non-resident Agreements	Not provided**	Not available**
Open Enrollment	By state law, free transportation is provided only if nearest in-District bus stop is two miles or more from school. Students must travel to nearest in-District bus stop.	Available only if nearest in-District bus stop is within two miles from school. Students must travel to nearest in-District bus stop.
Intra-district Transfers	Not available**	Not available**

* **Walk Area provision:** Fee-based bus service is not available if the distance from home to school is less than one mile for secondary school students, half a mile for elementary students, and 1,400 feet for kindergarten students.

****Daycare provision:** If a student's daycare provider is within the school's attendance area, transportation is available as follows. Free transportation is available if the daycare provider is located two miles or more from school. Fee-for-service transportation is available if the daycare provider is located within two miles of school.

**Look for
more information at
www.moundsvIEWSchools.org
or call 651-639-6200.**