

Transportation Questions and Answers

2018-2019

BACKGROUND

In April 2002 the School Board revised the transportation policy to include a fee for transportation for students residing within two miles of their school. All students who do not live in the “walk area” (defined below) and reside less than two miles from their school have the option for bus service by paying the fee.

What is the fee for service?

The Board approved a fee-based option for those students who live less than two miles from school. The fee is \$225 per student, if paid before June 8, with a family cap of \$500 per year. If paid after June 8, the fee is \$250 per student with a family cap of \$575. New families registering after June 8 will be charged the \$225 fee per student. The bus fee may be paid by check or credit card.

To pay with credit card, families who are already actively using ParentVUE can log into their account and use the FeePay system. Others may simply visit www.moundsvIEWSchools.org and find the FeePay link to pay transportation fees online. **NOTE: The Bus Registration Form must be filled out and submitted with a copy of the FeePay receipt to complete the bus registration.**

Anyone seeking transportation service within two miles must complete the 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 serve as the student’s bus pass. Students should have these bus passes with them at all times.

If the fee is paid AFTER JANUARY 1, the fee is \$137.50 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 \$112.50 per student.

The bus fees are flat rates. Bus fees are the same for students using full or partial bus service. There are no provisions for refunds once a student has utilized the service. Note: bus fees are subject to School Board action up until June 30, 2018.

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.

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. Bus service is not available to students who live within these distances, unless their walk area contains a designated hazardous area. Then, those students can receive transportation for a fee.

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 Nutrition Service Office (651-621-6022) or on the Nutrition Service web page on our web site at www.moundsvIEWSchools.org. **In addition to completing the Educational Benefits Application Form, families must also complete the “Information on Waiver of Bus Fee” section located on the back of the Transportation Registration Form.**

How is transportation to daycare facilities affected?

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 daycare address on certain days and then ride to or from their home address on alternate days. An alternate address will appear on the bus pass. 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 ensure the student knows which address to go to on which days.** The bus drivers will not be able to maintain schedules for a student.

How are private schools affected by this policy?

The law requires equal treatment in transportation service for private schools. Therefore, the private schools have the same two-mile fee policy as the public schools.

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

Students are required to ride their assigned bus and must get on and off at their assigned stop ONLY. The bus pass indicates the exact stop location students should be using. If students were able to use their pass for any bus, there would be no way of implementing stops.

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 substitute drivers and for activity bus drivers at the secondary level. Drivers will also conduct periodic pass checks to verify rider eligibility.

If a student needs to have a bus pass reprinted, there will be a \$5.00 charge for the third bus pass issued.

Are sports equipment and musical instruments allowed on the bus?

A student may carry onto the bus only those items that may be held on the lap or stored under the seat. Musical instruments must also be stored under the seat or carried on the lap. The following is a list of items that students are known to bring along when riding the bus to and from school. While this is not an exhaustive list, it is meant to be a guide to determine what is and what is not allowed on the bus from a safety and space perspective.

Allowed

Backpacks

Small Musical Instruments (that can be held on lap)

School Projects (to be held in lap)

Not Allowed

Cellos/Bass/Tuba

Skis, Poles & Boots

LaCrosse Sticks /

Hockey Sticks

Sleds

Javelins

Pole Vaulting Sticks

Skate Boards

In-Line Skates

Pets – Animals

Balloons

If this creates a hardship for your family, please contact the Transportation Office at (651) 621-6027.

Consequences of Students for Safety Code Violation

Each student referred for inappropriate behavior will have the incident reviewed by the principal (or designee) regarding the nature of the activity and its safety implication. Consistency will be followed in all disciplinary proceedings. If the offense is willful vandalism or destructive behavior, bus privileges will be suspended immediately. If a reported incident is determined upon review by the principal or designee to be a violation of the bus safety rules, the following consequences may apply:

1st Violation

The student will be issued a warning and a signed student contract for the privilege of riding a school bus will be sent home for parental review and signature.

2nd Violation

Short term suspension of bus riding privileges as determined by administration.

3rd Violation

Suspension of bus riding privileges for an extended period of time, depending upon the seriousness of the violation. Only the building principal or designee is authorized to remove a student's bus riding privilege for safety code violations. Prior to implementation of such removal, the building principal (or designee) will notify the student's parents or guardian of such action. Students missing school due to suspension of bus riding privileges are truant and will be unexcused from school for the day. Students who consistently abuse the bus riding privilege may be subject to School District action permanently removing their bus riding privilege.