

Transportation

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

2021-22



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 and half a mile for elementary students.

What is the fee for service?

A fee-based option is available for those students who live less than two miles from school and not within the walk area. The fee is \$225 per student with a family cap of \$500 per year. Fees may be paid by check or online with a credit card. For more information and detailed instructions, please visit moundsviewschools.org/transportation. The due date for 2020-21 bus registration is **July 30, 2021**.

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. While there are many different tools for measuring distances, the District’s transportation software will be the official standard for applying the transportation rules. For more information, email transportation@moundsviewschools.org.

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 and half a mile for elementary students. Students who live within these distances cannot receive transportation.

When will I get my bus pass?

Students in grades 3 through 12 will no longer receive postcards in mail with bus information, nor will they need to present a pass before boarding their bus. Parents and guardians will be able to find student bus information in ParentVUE in late August. Students in kindergarten through grade 2 will continue to use bus passes, which will be sent to homes in late August.

Why do all students need to register to ride the bus?

This registration helps the District provide accurate, efficient busing and applies to **ALL** students.

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

No. Students can only ride their scheduled bus and must get on and off at their **assigned stop only**.

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 Services Office (651-621-6025) or at moundsviewschools.org/educationalbenefits.

Are masks required on buses?

Yes, masks are currently required on all forms of public transportation, including school buses. This is due to a federal mandate from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). When and if this federal mandate changes, Mounds View Public Schools will contact families with any updates. Read the full CDC mandate [here](#).



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 and pay the fee.
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.moundviewschools.org or email transportation@moundviewschools.org.