

# Transportation

## Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

### 2020-21



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 by credit card or using PayPal. For more information, please visit the transportation web page at [www.moundsvIEWSchools.org](http://www.moundsvIEWSchools.org). The due date for 2020-21 bus registration is **July 3, 2020**.

***Families that owe a fee for transportation must send in a completed Bus Registration Form (along with payment or receipt of payment) to receive bus transportation.***

#### When will I get my bus pass?

Students will receive postcards in September with the bus number, stop location and times. These postcards will serve as the student’s bus pass.

#### 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. 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](mailto:transportation@moundsvIEWSchools.org).

#### 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,

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

Due to the COVID-19 capacity limits on buses, **ALL** students that need busing are required to sign up for the service. 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 students list more than one stop?

A student may have one (1) pick-up address and one (1) drop-off address. If the pick-up address or the drop-off address is less than two miles from school, there will be a fee.

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

No. The bus pass indicates the exact stop location students should be using. ***Students can only ride their scheduled bus and must get on and off at their assigned 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. Bus pass checks will be done periodically. Students may request a new pass if they lose theirs. There will be a \$5 charge for the third pass a student receives.

**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 (651-621-6022) or on the Nutrition Services web page at [www.moundsvIEWSchools.org](http://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.



**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.

	<b>Free transportation</b>	<b>Fee-for-service</b>
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](http://www.moundsvIEWSchools.org) or email [transportation@moundsvIEWSchools.org](mailto:transportation@moundsvIEWSchools.org).