



Transportation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

The 2010-2011 school year budget continues the \$210 bus fee for all K-12 students, except for K-6 students who reside more than two miles from their school of attendance. In an attempt to answer frequently asked questions, the following is provided for your information.

1. What legal grounds support the institution of a fee for transportation?

The law (Chapter 71, section 68) provides for free transportation only to students in grades K-6 whose residence is more than two miles from their school of attendance. All other students accessing regular education bus service may be assessed a fee.

2. What options are available for parents who require financial assistance?

Families who qualify for assistance under the Free or Reduced Federal Lunch Program will receive free bus passes. If you are not sure, you may send your financial information as instructed in the May 1, 2010 letter or fill-out a Free and Reduced Application (both are available at www.hopkinton.k12.ma.us).

3. How does the school determine which families are within two miles of their school and must pay a fee?

The distance from your school is determined by our routing software, Transfinder, which is GPS based. The distance calculation is based solely on your place of residence in accordance with the law. Daycare arrangements are not considered. The distance from home to school is the shortest route available and is measured from door to door. This includes the driveway. All streets not eligible for town paid (free) transportation for K-6 students are available on the website. Questions about the distance calculation for specific addresses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

4. If a parent disagrees with the distance calculation, what should they do?

Parents should contact the Transportation Department by e-mailing transportation@hopkinton.k12.ma.us or by calling 508-417-9381.

5. Can my child be picked up at a bus stop within the two mile limit so that they can take the bus without paying a fee?

A student may not move to a bus stop outside of two miles to negate the bus fee. It is based solely on the location of their residence.

6. Who should apply?

All students who wish to ride the bus in grades K-12, whether free or for a fee, should apply. However, K-6 students outside of two miles (free) will automatically have a seat reserved on a bus.

7. Is there a dollar limit to the amount that any one family would have to pay?

There is a family cap of \$420.

8. If a parent can not afford to pay the fee immediately, can the total be spread over more than one payment?

No. All fees are due by June 30, 2010. There is a \$50.00 late charge for each (fee based program) student after June 30, 2010.

9. If a parent does not want to pay a transportation fee, is the school assuming that they should walk?

If the choice is not to purchase a bus pass, it is the parent's decision on how their child gets to and from school.

10. Who is responsible for making sure sidewalks are available for students within the two mile limit who will not take the bus?

The school system does not oversee sidewalks off of school property. The DPW has a sidewalk program and may be contacted at 508-497-9740.

11. Will the district be hiring crossing guards for the intersections within the two mile limit?

There will be three crossing guards in 2010-2011 for the High School/Middle School bus run only due to the high amount of traffic congestion around the campus.