

Information On No Fee (Free) Busing

2016-2017 School Year

In accordance with the Student Transportation Policy of the Hopkinton Public Schools/ Hopkinton School Committee the following information applies to fee-based school bus transportation for the 2016-17 school year:

- ***All students in grades K-6 receive free busing regardless of the distance they live from their assigned school.***
- You do NOT need to apply for busing. Your student will automatically be assigned to a bus and bus stop.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please let Transportation know if your student will **NOT** be riding the bus for the 2016-2017 school year by emailing transportation@hopkinton.k12.ma.us. This is important so that we do not fill buses with students who will not be riding and create bus stops that will not be utilized. Please let us know if your student will **NOT** be riding as soon as possible prior to June 30, 2016.
- Incoming Kindergarten students for the 2016-2017 school year will receive a mailing from Center School and Transportation in April which will contain detailed busing information.

Other Information

- Childcare Transportation procedures, requirements, and Transportation Arrangement forms for the 2016-17 school year are being sent home after April vacation week in student backpacks for students currently in elementary grades K-4. Incoming Kindergarten Childcare Transportation Arrangement forms and childcare transportation information for the 2016-17 school year will be mailed home in April from Center School.
- Bus passes will be mailed to your place of residence during the last 2 weeks of August. All students will be required to present their bus pass to the bus driver beginning with the first day of school. **Please note: No bus passes will be available for pick-up at the Transportation Office during the summer months through September 9, 2016, as staff must follow a process of determining bus space availability before a pass can be printed.**
- Bus routes will be published during the last week of August.
- **Bus switching is not allowed on a day-to-day basis for Grades K-5.** Exception: As all student bus passes are issued for the student's home address, a parent may opt to send a student home on a day on which their student normally attends childcare. The parent must inform the school of this busing change via a *Note from Home*.
- Bus **stop** switching is allowed for grades K-5 on a student's assigned bus by sending a *Note from Home* to your student's school on the day the bus **stop** switch is to be

made. (see Bus Stop Switching Procedures-Elementary Schools on the HPS Transportation webpage)

- Bus switching is allowed for grades 6-12 on afternoon (PM) buses for students with a valid bus pass. Morning (AM) bus switching is NOT permitted. Students who are switching buses must wait for all students with passes for that number bus to board first then may board if there are seats available. A valid bus pass must be shown to bus switch. Bus switching is not allowed on early release days. **Bus switching will start on Monday, September 19, 2016, the third full week of school.**
- Replacement bus passes can be purchased for a \$5.00 fee at the Transportation office.

Questions regarding transportation should be directed to Mary Ann Fitzpatrick on 508-417-9381 or emailed to: transportation@hopkinton.k12.ma.us.