

Littleton Public Schools
Littleton, MA
Frequently Asked Busing Questions

- 1. Who does not have to pay a fee for school bus transportation and who does have to pay a fee for this transportation service?** The School Department follows transportation eligibility criteria of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. All children in grades K-6 who reside more than two miles from the school they attend are eligible for transportation services which will be paid for by the Littleton Public Schools. Children in grades K-6 who live two miles or less from the school that they attend, and all students grades 7 – 12 will have to pay a fee to ride the school bus to and from school. School Choice students CAN NOT ride the bus.
- 2. If I *DO NOT* have to pay a fee for my child/children to ride the school bus to and from school, must I register online or at the Superintendent's Office?** No, your child/children do not need to register.
- 3. How is the two mile distance determined for children in grades K – 6?** The two mile distance from a child's school is measured by using the shortest route over a public way from the pupil's residence, as measured from the end of the residence driveway to the closest main entrance doorway of the child's school of attendance.
- 4. How will the two mile distance be accurately measured from the schools?** We utilize mapping software to establish the two mile limit.
- 5. What if I do not agree with the two mile calculation from the school with respect to my property?** Please contact the Business Manager at 978-540-2508.
- 6. Will bus passes be issued to all students who will be transported (fee-based and eligible)?** Yes, bus passes for both fee-based and eligible students will be mailed to your home address a week or so before the start of school each year.
- 7. Will there be a family cap on fees for transportation?** Yes, the family cap will be \$675.00. If you have one student requiring a fee, it is \$225; two students requiring a fee \$450. For three students or more who require a fee, the family cap will be \$675.
- 8. Will any families who are required to pay a fee for transportation realize a reduced rate or a waived fee, and what criteria will be used to determine a reduced or waived fee?** If your family is eligible under the USDA Free and Reduced Meal Program, there will be no charge for transportation. But you still need to sign up in the SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE or contact the **Business Office at 978-540-2510 and register your student(s) for the bus.**

- 9. What method of payment can I use to pay my child/children's bus fee?** There are two ways to pay for the bus fee. You may come to sign up (**only if you are required to pay**) in the Superintendent's Office starting May 6 thru June 27, 2019. The second way is via on-line payments and the link can be found on the school department's district web site. Click on the Quick Links "BUS" and follow the instructions. Bank fees will be charged if paying by credit card only. If paying by ACH (electronic check) **NO FEE** is charged. If using a Mastercard or Discover Card, convenience fees are as follows: We encourage all families to register and pay using the ACH, or Electronic Check, as there are no fees.

\$225 = \$10.00
\$450 or \$675 = \$17.50

- 10. Will the bus routes and bus stops remain the same?** Some of the bus routes will be similar, if not the same, as in previous years. However, bus stops from school year to school year may be different. The location of bus stops, particularly for students who must pay a fee for transportation service, are dependent upon how many students pay the fee and their location. Early payment of transportation fees will expedite the process of establishing bus routes and stops.
- 11. May a student ride a bus other than the one he/she is assigned to?** Parents of students in Kindergarten through fifth grade only may designate a maximum of two locations from which their children can be picked up or dropped off during the school year (e.g. the child's home & Tiger's Den). These requests should follow the same consistent daily schedule. All requests for pickup and drop off locations other than the primary home address are subject to approval by the busing contractor and subject to current bus routes. This is to ensure orderly and timely arrival and dismissal from school. Request forms are available at your child's school.
- 12. Instead of paying a school bus fee, I will choose to transport my child to his/her school. Suppose my child is invited to a birthday party at his/her friend's house after school, can my child ride the bus home with that friend on the school bus?** No, if you choose not to pay a fee for your child to be transported, you are responsible for transporting your child to the friend's house.
- 13. What if my child only needs to be transported to school in the morning, or only needs to be transported from school in the afternoon, do I still need to pay the full fee?** Yes, there is no pro-ration of the fee based on the need for only one-way transportation.
- 14. What if my child only needs to be transported to school by the bus two or three days a week, do I still have to pay the full fee?** Yes, we cannot plan bus routes and bus stops based on inconsistent riders, pro-rated fees or part time riders.
- 15. Must my child carry the bus pass every day?** Yes, every student must have his/her bus pass each day. We recommend that his/her pass be attached to a backpack, or article of clothing, so they are quickly available and observable by the school bus driver.
- 16. If I must pay a fee for my children to be transported may I pay this fee in installments?** No, transportation fees must be paid in full at the time of application for transportation service. Payments can be made online (credit card or ACH) and in the Superintendent's Office. Note: If paying by credit card there is an additional convenience fee. This credit card fee goes directly to Unibank and does not go to the school department.
- 17. Will bus passes be checked?** Students must present a bus pass to board the bus going to school and to board the bus coming home from school. Abuse of the bus pass system will result in forfeiture of transportation privileges and fees. Criteria for bus discipline and safety, as outlined in the student handbooks, will be in effect whether someone pays a fee or not.

- 18. I live within 2 miles of my child's school, but the day care center, at which he/she is picked up and dropped off at is within our school district, but more than 2 miles from the school. Do I still have to pay a fee for transportation?** Yes, the distance criteria that determines whether or not you pay a transportation fee is based on your home residence address.
- 19. If my child has a bus pass, can he/she be transported to a daycare center which is not in his/her school district?** No, a childcare center must be located within your child's school district and on an existing bus route.
- 20. On early release days, either for staff professional development, or inclement weather, will children who do not have a bus pass be transported home?** No, transportation services will only be available for children who have a bus pass. A parent or legal guardian will have to pick up his/her child (who does not have a bus pass) shortly after the early release time.
- 21. My child has a special needs educational plan which specifies that he/she needs to be transported to school via a special education van; Do I have to pay a transportation fee?** No, the law does not permit school systems to charge a fee for transporting special needs students, via a van, when it is prescribed in a child's individual educational plan.
- 22. Are sports and musical instruments and equipment allowed on the bus to and from school?** Yes, with exceptions, and at the discretion of the bus driver.

Here is a sample list (non-exclusive) of items that are unsafe to other students and might become tripping hazards during an emergency or evacuation and therefore **not** allowed on the school bus.

Sticks, bats, racquets, smaller musical instruments such as flutes, trumpets, clarinets, violins, etc. and other equipment must be in a case or sport bag. Students must be able to carry the equipment on and off the bus under their control. These items must not become a tripping hazard on the bus floor or take up additional seating space. Instruments should be able to fit on the student's lap when riding the bus.

Examples of items not allowed on the bus (non-exclusive)

- Skis
- Snowboards
- Ski poles
- Hockey equipment bags
- Hockey sticks
- Golf bags and clubs
- Lacrosse sticks longer than 42" (defender and goalie)
- Large Drum cases
- Cellos/bass instruments
- Trombones
- Electronic Pianos/Keyboards
- Xylophones

If there are questions, please ask the bus driver.