

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

The major purpose of our transportation service is to aid students in getting to and from school in an efficient, safe, timely, and economical manner.

Free bus transportation to and from school shall be provided in accordance with the following:

- a. Grades Kindergarten – 12: For any child living one and one-half miles or more from his/her school.
- b. Special Education students on an Individualized Education Program plan which specifies that specialized transportation is needed.
- c. Students requiring accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Acts of 1973 in accordance with current statute and regulation which specifies that specialized transportation is needed.

Bus routes and group bus stops will be established by the school bus contractor and approved by the Committee. The District uses a computer generated route optimization software package, Versatrans, to assist in developing a safe, efficient and cost effective plan for bus routing. In computing the distance for transportation eligibility, the main entrance of the school to the front curb of the student's dwelling and the most direct route shall be used by the District's computer software.

Information regarding group bus stop locations, bus numbers, and approximate pick up and drop off times will be communicated to parents by the end of the third week of June. The District may make modifications to bus assignments, routes and group bus stops based on extenuating circumstances.

An appeal of any stop must be made in writing via the online *Appeal Form* located on the District website. The appeal must be based on safety and not convenience or preference. Appeal forms and procedures will be located on the District's website. All appeals must be received before 4:00 p.m. on the second Friday of July. Parents will be assigned a hearing date to present their appeal to the Appeal Board. *Appeal Hearings will be scheduled and conducted through the month of July and conclude no later than the second Friday in August.* *Please refer to the *Hearing Procedures* on the District's website. *Parents/Guardians will be notified in writing of the approval/denial of the appeal prior to the start of the school year.*

PLEASE NOTE:

- *PREVIOUSLY DENIED APPEALS WILL NOT BE RECONSIDERED BARRING NEW EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.*
- *PRIOR APPROVED APPEALS MAY OR MAY NOT BE CARRIED FROM YEAR TO YEAR DUE TO CHANGES IN BUS ASSIGNMENTS OR PROMOTION IN GRADE LEVEL.*
- *ALL APPEAL BOARD DECISIONS ARE FINAL.*

Pay to Ride

If feasible, fee-based bus transportation may be available through a Pay to Ride system.

Request forms will be available on the District's website for those interested in Pay to Ride Registration during the month of February. Fee-based transportation forms may be found in the District's student/parent information portal.

THE PAY TO RIDE REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT EVERY YEAR.

Fees and deadlines will be established annually by the Committee. Details will be on the request form. Full year/full day service must be purchased; there will be no pro-rated fees. Payment plans are not available. Payments can be made online at www.bridge-rayn.org or a bank check/ money order made payable to: Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District. No refunds will be issued after the start of the school year. A student who pays a fee for transportation and whose riding privileges are suspended because of discipline issues will not receive a refund in whole or in part. Any family choosing the Pay to Ride option will be assigned a group stop and students will be mailed a Bus Pass.

The Committee shall provide transportation services to students on the following conditions:

- The student's day shall begin when he/she enters the school bus and continues until the student leaves the school bus at the end of the school day. The student shall come under the jurisdiction of school regulations during the entire period. The bus driver shall be considered to have the same authority as the teacher in the classroom. Buses may have surveillance equipment installed and any behavioral and/or safety concerns will be immediately reported to school administration.
- Students shall follow all regulations set forth in the File: EEAEC (also JICC) which will control their boarding, leaving, seating, behavior and safety. A student may be excluded, temporarily or permanently, for disobeying one of these regulations. Principals will be responsible that the students in their respective buildings will be educated in the expected proper conduct while riding the school bus.
- **All bus students and parent/guardians shall be made aware that bus transportation shall be a privilege and not a right to which they shall be entitled.**
- Parents/guardians are responsible party for the actions of their child/children to and from the bus stop and their child/children's behavior at said bus stop.
- An authorized adult/person must be at the bus stop for all K-4th graders. These students will not be dropped off otherwise and will be returned to the school. After three instances in which an authorized adult/person is not at the bus stop - riding privileges may be revoked. It will be at the discretion of the bus driver to drop off any student in grades 5-12 if an authorized adult/person is not at the bus stop. *An authorized adult is someone you have named and have given written consent to the Principal to be present at the bus stop to receive your child/children.*

- It is the expectation of the District that as students advance in grade level they will be expected to walk greater distances to group stops designated by the transportation company. A student is expected to walk to and from a group bus stop if he/she lives on a dead end road or cul-de-sac. The District may choose not to transport students on private or unapproved roads.
- The District provides two-way transportation for students residing within the busing boundaries established by the Committee. A student shall not ride any other bus except the bus to which he/she has been assigned without completing and obtaining approval for the change to assignment. A student may be picked up at one bus stop and dropped off at a bus stop located in proximity to an attending daycare provided that an empty seat is available. The stop requested must also be on the existing bus route. For safety concerns, this different address/bus stop must be consistent for all five days. On early release days, students will be dropped off at the alternate address/bus stop.
- Parents must ensure that day care providers or other programs will be accessible for their children on these days. Notification of a different drop off address/bus stop must be in writing to the Business office and the school Principal prior to April 1 utilizing the *Daycare Transportation Arrangement Form*. No special arrangements or special stops will be created to accommodate daycare providers.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 40:5; 71:7A, B and C; 71:37D; 71:48A; 71:68; 71:71A;
71B:4; 71B:5; 71B:8; 74:8A; 76:1; 76:12Bi; 76:14

CROSS REF.: EEA, Walkers and Riders

Updated & Approved by School Committee: January 25, 2017