

EAST BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FEE POLICY

FEE PLAN for BUS RIDERS

1. A student is provided transportation without charge if that student is attending a school within the East Bridgewater district and is a student in grades K-6 who lives two miles or more from the school the student attends.
2. All other riders, except those listed in item #1, will be assessed a rider fee:
 - A. all students in Kindergarten who live less than 2 miles from the school the student attends may ride for a fee
 - B. all students in grades 1-6 who live 1-2 miles from the school the student attends, may ride for a fee
 - C. all students in grades 7-8 who live more than 1 mile from the school the student attends, may ride for a fee
 - D. all students in grades 9-12 who live more than 1.5 miles from the school the student attends, may ride for a fee
 - E. all students in grades 1-6 who live less than 1 mile from the school the student attends, may ride for a fee if space is available
 - F. all students in grades 7-8 who live less than 1 mile from the school the student attends may ride for a fee if space is available
 - G. all students in grades 9-12 who live less than 1.5 miles from the school the student attends, may ride for a fee if space is available
3. A list of students who are eligible to ride with no fee (K-6, more than two miles from the school) will be posted at each school and made available upon request. **A bus rider card will automatically be sent to the homes of these students.**
4. A notice of the fee assessment and the opportunity to ride (application) will be sent by May 31, 2009, to families of students eligible to ride on a fee basis.
5. An application, **accompanied by payment in full**, must be filed for each student enrolling for fee-based transportation by **July 1, 2009** to ensure that the student has a seat reserved on the bus. Applications will be available in the main office of each school and in the Superintendent's office. **Payments postmarked after July 1, 2009, must include a late fee of \$25 per family. The late fee will only apply only for students who were sent fee assessment notices by May 31, 2009.**

6. Fees will be paid via US Mail to a Post Office Box established for such purpose. Pre-addressed envelopes will be provided in the application packet. Fees are to be paid by check or money order made payable to the Town of East Bridgewater. NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED. Students who pay a fee to ride will be issued a receipt and a bus rider card.
7. The fee for transportation per year is as follows, with a cap of \$300 per family:
 - A. \$250 for the first child
 - B. \$125 for the second child
 - C. \$0 for third or more children
8. A waiver for financial hardship may be requested by a letter to the **School Business Administrator**. Documentation of need may be required. The federal guidelines for free and reduced lunch will be the criteria for a fee waiver or a partial fee waiver.
9. There will be no refunds if a student leaves the district or changes transportation plans after the seat space has been allotted for that student.
10. Bus transportation is a privilege and may be withdrawn by the principal, or designee, for misbehavior or failure to follow rules.
11. The distance between school and home will be measured from the front door of the school to the driveway of the home. Questions in regard to mileage should be referred to the **School Business Administrator**.
12. Any student who did not/does not qualify for bus transportation on a mileage basis, but is riding due to safety concerns (as previously determined by the **School Business Administrator** and the East Bridgewater Police Dept.) will be allowed to ride on a fee basis.
13. A waiting list will be maintained listing those students who wish to ride for a fee, but for whom space was not available at the time of application. Students who apply to ride after the start of the school year will be accommodated if space is available and the fee will be pro-rated *starting December 1st*.
14. The school department limits the number of buses to which a student may be assigned to **TWO** in the morning and **TWO** in the afternoon. **Assignment to a second bus is subject to the availability of space.**