

Winchester Public Schools Transportation Department

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible for public school transportation?

All students in grades K-12 are eligible for transportation.

2. Is there a fee for transportation?

Yes, all students living less than 2 miles from their neighborhood school have the option to purchase a bus pass for the school year. Please refer to the fee scale below.

For the 2008-2009 school year:

	One Student		Two Students		Family	
	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way
Fee Before 7/31/08	\$525.00	\$335.00	\$785.00	\$520.00	\$920.00	\$600.00
Fee After 7/31/08	\$630.00	\$400.00	\$940.00	\$625.00	\$1100.00	\$720.00

All applications must be received or postmarked by July 31st. There will be a 20% increase for all applications received after July 31st.

3. Are there exceptions?

Transportation for students who are in grades K-6 and live **MORE than 2 miles** from the neighborhood school they attend will be provided free of charge. Students in grades 7-12 must pay the fee, regardless of location. If you are applying for free or reduced lunch, you may be eligible for a free bus pass. All requests must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. An application must be completed for all students in grades K-12, regardless of fee. If an application is not complete, a pass will not be issued.

4. Are refunds available?

Winchester Public School transportation's budget is based on rider-ship. As a result, refunds will be issued only under extraordinary circumstances

5. How is transportation provided for Kindergarten students?

Kindergarten students using morning transportation must go to a bus stop already assigned for the morning route. For the afternoon, bus drivers will take the Kindergarten students as close to their door as safely possible for the typical dismissal time of 12:15 and 12:30 p.m. The bus drivers cannot go down any street that presents a hazard. If this is true of a Kindergarten's drop off location, the parent should arrange to meet the bus at a safe drop off point. Reminder, this can be provided for Kindergarten students **ONLY**. **Early release days: Kindergarten students are returned home from school with the total school population on early release days. There is no drop off at individual Kindergarten addresses on early release days.**

6. I open-enrolled my child in a school more than 2 miles from my home, will transportation be provided?

No. Transportation will not be provided for students who are open enrolled. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide transportation for those students who attend schools out of their neighborhood school.

7. My child attends Day Care in the afternoon, will transportation be provided?

No. Unless the day care provider resides within the neighborhood school the child attends, transportation can not be provided. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide transportation for those students.

8. My child attends the Winchester Recreation After-school Program, will transportation be provided?

Yes. Winchester Public Schools provides transportation for those students who attend the Winchester Recreation and Kids Corner after-school programs. These students are expected to follow the same process and procedures as regular transportation students.

9. Where can I find the bus routes for the school year?

Bus routes are posted on the Winchester Public Schools website at www.winchester.k12.ma.us under the Transportation icon. Bus routes will also be published in the Daily Times Chronicle and Winchester Star newspapers and local cable WINCAM channel. Bus routes are usually published in late August.

10. How are the routes established?

For Kindergarten and Elementary level students, the Winchester School Department's Transportation Office sets a parameter of between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile as a reasonable

distance that this age student can walk to a bus stop for transport to school. There may be exceptions.

For Middle School and High School level students, the Winchester School Department's Transportation Office sets a parameter of between $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 mile as a reasonable distance that this age student can walk to a bus stop for transport to school.

11. There is not a bus stop close to my home, can we add a stop?

New stops may be added for safety reasons only. All requests for adding or changing a bus stop must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the safety officer on a case by case basis.