

# Transportation Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Who is entitled to bus transportation free of charge in Norwood?

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 68, students in grades 1-6 who reside more than 2.0 miles walking distance to their neighborhood school are entitled to free transportation. All Kindergarten students are free. Special Education transportation services are separate from regular bus transportation and are not affected.

## 2. Must I apply if my child is eligible for free transportation?

Applications must be completed for all students grades 1-12 that plan to ride the bus regardless of fee status.

## 3. What students are required to pay for transportation?

- All students in grades 7-12 regardless of distance
  - If student qualifies for free or reduced lunch there is a \$25.00 administrative fee.
- All students in grades 1-6 that live less than 2 miles from the school
  - If student qualifies for free or reduced lunch there is a \$25.00 administrative fee.

## 4. How is the distance from school determine for all students?

All distances are to be calculated using **Google Maps ONLY** using the students home address and their neighborhood school address.

## 5. Will the bus routes and schedules stay the same?

The bus routes will be set with reasonable revisions based on the number of applications and space availability. All routes may be viewed on the Norwood Public School website.

## 6. May a student not eligible for busing ride home with a friend?

No. Each bus has a limited capacity; only students who are assigned to the specific bus may ride.

## 7. How much is the bus transportation fee?

The fee for the 2022-2023 school year is \$300 per rider with a \$750 family cap **(\$275 per student with a \$700 family cap if paid in full by Monday June 5, 2023).**

All students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch must pay a \$25 administrative fee.

**All payments are due by June 30, 2023.**

**8. How can I receive financial assistance for the cost of a bus pass to and from school?**

It is the intention of Norwood Public Schools that no student is excluded due to the inability to pay. Families may apply for a CONFIDENTIAL fee waiver based on financial hardship so that no student is denied bus transportation. All applications seeking a waiver must fill out and submit the following:

- 2023-2024 Bus Application
- 2023-2024 transportation fee waiver application
- Required documentation listed on the Fee Waiver Application

INCOMPLETE WAIVER APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPCTED.

**9. Are there any one-way pass options?**

No, there are no “One-way” rates.

**10. How do I apply for a Bus Pass? Can I apply online?**

You can apply online at <https://www.norwood.k12.ma.us/about/transportation-services>

You can apply in-person at the transportation office located in the Savage Center (275 Prospect St. Norwood).

**11. How do I pay the bus fee?**

You can pay the fee in any of the 3 following ways:

- **ONLINE**
  - Uni-Pay - <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/default.aspx>
    - Type in “Norwood Public Schools” in the search bar.
- **MAIL**
  - Make checks/money orders payable to Norwood Public Schools
  - Norwood Public Schools Transportation Office  
PO BOX 67  
Norwood MA, 02062
- **IN PERSON**
  - Credit/Debit (Master Card, American Express, Discover)
  - Check/Money Orders
  - CASH IS NOT ACCEPCTED

**12. Must I pay the fee in one payment?**

Yes, we do not accept partial payments.

**13. When will bus passes be distributed?**

All passes delivered to student’s school the week of **August 29th** if registered by **JUNE 30th**.

**14. Must my child carry the bus pass every day?**

Yes. All students should have their passes with them every day. Bus pass checks will be conducted and if a student does not have a pass, they will be unable to ride the bus.

**15. Can I purchase a bus pass anytime during the school year?**

In order to plan the bus routes and make appropriate space accommodations, we ask that you submit your registrations **BEFORE June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. All registrations received **AFTER June 30<sup>th</sup>** are not guaranteed a seat on the bus.

**16. What is I leave something on the bus?**

Although the bus company is not responsible for any items left on they bus, they do have a found and found and try to return as much as possible. The number for the lost and found is 508-668-1530.