

FAQ ABOUT BUS TRANSPORTATION AND BUS PASSES

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 and DO NOT have to fill out an application for a bus pass. 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?

An application must be filed if your child is in Grades 1-12 and plans to receive bus transportation. All students riding the bus must purchase/acquire a bus

pass including students in grades 1-5 and grade 6 residing greater than 2 miles from school.

3. Who can choose to pay a user fee?

Under Norwood Public Schools/School Committee Policy, all students in Grades 1- 6 who live less than 2.0 miles from their school must pay for transportation. Grades 7-12 must pay the fee regardless of distance or apply for financial assistance.

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

It is measured by using the shortest walking route from the public way in front of a student's home to the nearest entrance way of the school.

5. How can I find out the distance from my home to school?

We use Google Maps

6. 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.

The bus routes may also be viewed on the Norwood Public Schools' website.

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

Because each Bus has limited capacity all students must take their Bus # assigned to them.

8. How much is the bus transportation fee?

The bus fee for the 2021-2022 school year is \$275 per student with a family maximum of \$725. If payment is received on or before July 19th, (2021).

After July 19th 2021, the bus fee is \$300 per student with a family maximum of \$750.

All students who are eligible for free transportation and apply for their pass after July 19th, must pay an administration fee of **\$25.00 PER STUDENT**.

9. 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 should be 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 applicants seeking a waiver must fill out and submit the following:

1. 2021-2022 **BUS APPLICATION**
2. 2021-2022 **TRANSPORTATION FEE WAIVER APPLICATION** “required documentation” that is listed on the waiver for financial assistance which is available on-line at
3. The “**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**” that is listed on the Fee Waiver Application.

We will not except INCOMPLETE Application/Waivers.

10. Are there any one-way pass options?

There are no “one way” rates.

11. How do I apply for a Bus Pass? Can I apply on-line?

Yes, you can apply online at www.norwood.k12.ma.us. On the main page scroll down and click ‘BUS APPLICATION’ under QUICK LINKS.

All students wanting to ride the BUS in grades 1-12 must apply for a school bus pass. The address to mail your payment is on the Bus Application.

We only except check or money order. Please make your check out to “Norwood Public Schools.”

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

Yes. We do not except partial payments.

13. When will the bus passes be distributed?

Bus passes will be delivered to the student's school or homeroom during the first 2 weeks of school if registered by August 9, 2021.

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

Yes. All students should have their passes with them every school day. Please note that each school has an up-to-date list of

students who have been issued bus passes. This list will confirm a student's eligibility to ride. Abuse of the bus pass system or

violation of the school system's rules of behavior will result in disciplinary action including suspension of transportation

privileges and forfeiture of fees.

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 please submit your registration BEFORE June 30th 2021.

16. What if I leave something on the bus?

Although the bus company is not responsible for items left on the bus, they do have a lost and found and try to return as much

as possible to the rightful owner. The number for lost and found is 508-668-1530.