

SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

APPLICATION FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION – FEE

June, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71 Section 68 requires free public transportation for students only if they are in grades K-6 and only if they live more than two miles from the school they are entitled to attend. Under the Salem School Committee's Transportation Policy distances for children in grades K-6 are less than two miles, and any student in grades 7-12 who seeks to be transported to school by Salem Public Schools must pay a bus Transportation Fee unless expressly exempted by Massachusetts law. **A student who resides less than one-half (0.5) miles from the school she or he is entitled to attend is not entitled to Transportation except as required by Massachusetts law.**

Based on the information on file, your child is NOT eligible for Free Bus Transportation.

Except as otherwise noted the transportation fee is \$250 per child, with a maximum of \$400 per family.

Enclosed you will find a Bus Transportation Application to be fully completed for paid transportation. If you have more than one child in the Salem Public Schools you may receive more than one packet. Depending on the ages and schools of your children, one may be eligible for free bus transportation while another may not. A separate application must be submitted for each student if different schools are involved. Busing will continue to be provided for those Special Education Students whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) requires it.

All Bus Transportation Applications must be returned to the Transportation Office by June 30, 2011 with a deposit of \$100.00 per rider to ensure a bus seat.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding your deposit or your eligibility for transportation, please call the Salem Public Schools – Transportation Office at (978) 740-1138.

Sincerely,

SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To avoid a late fee final payment is due by August 1, 2011.

Bus passes will not be issued until full payment is made.

Salem Public Schools

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POLICY

1. GRADES K–6:

Pursuant to School Committee Policy 3601, for students enrolled in their neighborhood school, free transportation will be provided as per the following distances:

Grades K–2	more than 1 mile
Grades 3–5	more than 1.5 miles
Grade 6	2 miles

Any student who resides less than one-half (0.5) miles from the school she or he is entitled to attend is not entitled to Transportation except as required by Massachusetts law.

Under the School Department's controlled choice enrollment policy, parents have the opportunity to select a school other than their neighborhood school. Free transportation will be provided for those children who enroll through choice in other than their neighborhood school **only if** they meet the distance eligibility above **and** positively affect the racial balance of that school.

2. PAID TRANSPORTATION

For all other students, transportation may be provided as per the following fee schedule on a first come, first served basis. We will fill only the seats available. We will run no additional buses to accommodate applications. The fee schedule for transportation is:

\$250 per rider with a maximum of \$400 per family.
\$150 per rider for one way transportation.

No student eligible for free or reduced lunch, under the federal school lunch program, shall be required to pay the fee.

Payments may be made in two parts; \$100.00 deposit by June 30th when reserving transportation, final payment by August 1, 2011. Payment accepted by check or money order only.

Cash will not be accepted.

A \$20.00 late fee will be charged for payments after August 1, 2011 or for any returned checks.

3. BUS PASSES:

Bus passes will be issued after the start of the school year. There will be a fee of \$10.00 for a replacement pass. **Students will not be allowed on buses without a pass.** For paying riders, bus passes will not be issued until full payment is received.

4. SCHOOL BUS STOPS:

Students must walk to a common bus stop. Students are not entitled to street to street or door to door pickup or delivery. Parents are responsible for getting their child to the correct bus stop. We cannot make additional stops, as the buses are carefully timed for each run. Any new riders must go to an existing stop. **There will be no exceptions to this rule.** Do not assume bus stops are in the same location as the previous year as they may change annually. School bus drivers have assigned routes, including stops. They are prohibited from changing their routes in any manner should a parent so request.

All kindergarten students must be met and taken from the school bus by an adult.

Kindergarten students will be returned to school if no adult is present to receive the child.

Please note that Salem Public Schools Student Bus Policy is always in effect. Riding the school bus is a privilege. Behavior issues will be dealt with in accordance with School Policy. Suspension or revocation of riding privileges will not afford a refund of bus fees for any reason. Be advised that parents are responsible for the cost of damages to vehicles caused by their children.

SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FEE APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION

During the 2011-2012 school year there will be a transportation fee for the following students:

- > Grades K-2, Residing less than one mile from your neighborhood school, who want bus transportation
> Grades 3 - 5, Residing one and one half miles or less from your prospective school, who want bus transportation
> Grade 6, Residing less than 2 miles from your prospective school, who want bus transportation
> Grades 7 - 12, Regardless of distance, who want bus transportation.
> A student who resides less than one-half (0.5) miles from the school she or he is entitled to attend is not entitled to transportation except as required by Massachusetts law.

If you have received this application then your child falls WITHIN one of the criteria above.

A response from all parents is necessary for proper planning, so please return the form even if you are not intending to use school busing for the coming year.

CHECK ONE: [] My child WILL NOT use bus transportation in the 2011-2012 school year.
[] I DO want my child to receive bus transportation in the 2011-2012 school year.

[] Round Trip [] Morning only [] Afternoon only

After checking one of these boxes you must complete the section below.

Parent's Name: _____ Address _____
[] Check if a new address

Home Phone: _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____ AM BUS _____ PM BUS _____ BUS STOP _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____ AM BUS _____ PM BUS _____ BUS STOP _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____ AM BUS _____ PM BUS _____ BUS STOP _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____ AM BUS _____ PM BUS _____ BUS STOP _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - DEPOSIT

DATE RECEIVED _____ CHECK # _____ AMOUNT _____

Send above portion with your deposit.

Keep bottom portion and return with final payment.

Bus Transportation Fees:

The fee is \$250 per rider with a maximum of \$400 per family. A \$100.00 deposit per student is due by June 30, 2011 with final payment due by August 1, 2011

Reminders will not be sent. Complete information below so that we can credit the proper account.

Parent's Name: _____ Address _____

Home Phone _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____

Please make check payable to Salem Public Schools. Mail to : Salem Public Schools, Transportation Office, 29 Highland Ave., Salem, MA 01970

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - FINAL PAYMENT

DATE RECEIVED _____ CHECK # _____ AMOUNT _____