

SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

APPLICATION FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION -FREE

May 2010

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.

Enclosed you will find an application that must be fully completed to receive free bus transportation. All students eligible for free transportation who have returned the required form by June 30th will be issued a bus pass and have a seat assigned to them. After that time there will be no guarantee of a seat for your child. In the event there are more requests than available seats, a waiting list will be established.

If your child does not qualify for free bus transportation you can contact us to request an application for fee based transportation. If you have more than one child in the Salem Public Schools you may receive more than one application packet. Depending on the ages and schools of your children, one may be eligible for free busing while another may not. A separate application must be submitted for each student.

Busing will continue to be provided for those Special Education Students whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) requires it.

**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**

**All Bus Transportation Applications must returned to the Transportation Office by
June 30, 2010 to ensure a seat**

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions please call the Salem Public Schools Transportation Office at (978) 740-1138.

Sincerely,
SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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APPLICATION FOR FREE TRANSPORTATION

During the 2010-2011 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 **OUTSIDE** one of the criteria above and will receive a *free bus pass.*

- CHECK ONE: My child **WILL NOT** use bus transportation in the 2010-2011 school year.
 I **DO** want my child to receive bus transportation in the 2010-2011 school year

If transportation is required please check one of the following:

- Round Trip Morning only Afternoon only

After checking one of these boxes you must complete the section below. A separate application must be submitted for each student.

Regardless of your decision, 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.

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

Home Phone: _____

Student's Name _____ School _____ Gr. _____

Bus Transportation Fees:

*This application is being sent based on information on file in the Transportation Office. Please note that if your residential address has changed from that which is on file, your child may no longer be eligible for free busing. The free bus pass may be revoked, but you have the option to apply for paid transportation.

You MUST bring or mail this completed form by June 30, 2010 to the Collins Middle School, Transportation Office, 29 Highland Ave., Salem, MA 01970 in order to qualify for free transportation. After that time, available seats will be assigned to students who have applied for paid transportation, and you will be responsible for transporting your child until a seat becomes available.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED: _____ AM BUS: _____ STOP: _____

S.I.D. NUMBER: _____ PM BUS: _____ STOP: _____