Wayland Public Schools

Student Transportation
Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for a school bus pass without paying a fee?
Students in Grades K-6 who live more than two (2.0) miles walking distance to their assigned school are entitled to transportation entirely at district expense.

Who can choose to pay a fee to ride the bus?
K-6 students living two (2.0) miles or less from their school and all students in Grades 7 – 12 will not be transported solely at district expense. These students who wish to ride the school bus must purchase a bus pass for the entire year, payable in advance. The only exceptions to this policy are for those special needs students whose Individualized Educational Program (IEP) requires special transportation, those students who qualify for free and reduced price lunch under Federal guidelines, and those students who have been approved for reduced fee waivers under the district's financial assistance program.

How much is the bus transportation fee?
The bus fee for the school year is $180.00 per student, with a family maximum of $500.00. **This fee increases to $230 on June 26th.** The per-student fee is much less than the actual per pupil cost of this service.

How is the distance from the school determined for all students?
It is measured by using the walking route from the center line of the public way in front of the student's home to the bus drop area of their assigned school. The Town of Wayland's Geographic Information System data is used for determining these distances and has been imported into the district's transportation routing software for calculating distances.

Will the bus routes and schedules stay the same each year?
Bus routes, number of buses and actual routes, will be established starting with revisions to prior routes, based on the number of riders, their residences and the space availability on the buses. Routes are finalized and published in late August.

What if I have elected to send my student to an elementary school other than the one serving the district where I live?
The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of elementary school students who voluntarily attend a school outside of their assigned district are responsible for transportation to and from school. They may purchase a bus pass for their student by requesting assignment to an already established bus route serving their student's school but are responsible for getting the student to the bus stop. The bus will not travel out of its district.

Do I need to complete a transportation registration form even if my student is eligible for free school bus transportation?
Yes. Parents must complete a transportation registration form that includes every student in the household who plans to ride a bus. If at least one student is paying, all students in the household (including free) may be registered through the Registration and Payment Center provided by Unibank. Up to four (4) paying and two (2) free may be entered on one form. If you only have students eligible to ride free, or need financial assistance, please use the links at the top left of the Student Transportation webpage. Registration of all students enables the School Department to appropriately plan transportation routes for the school year.

Does my student need a bus pass to board the school bus?
Yes. Every student who either pays a fee or is eligible for free transportation will be issued a bus pass that must be shown each day upon entering the bus. The pass entitles the student to ride to and from school on an assigned bus with an assigned bus stop. Bus passes will be mailed to families approximately 2 weeks prior to the start of school in September.

Can my student use the bus pass he was issued last year?
No. New color coded bus passes are issued each year.

What happens if my student loses his/her bus pass?
In the event a student loses a bus pass, a duplicate pass may be obtained from the School Department's Transportation Office for a $10.00 replacement fee, payable by check or money order only. (No cash is accepted.)

Can I purchase a bus pass for my student later in the year?
Parents can purchase a pass for their student later in the year, provided space is available on the bus serving their neighborhood. Proration of fees and refunds are addressed in the next question.

Can I get a prorated pass or request a refund of my student's bus fee?
Yes, prorated fees and refunds (with return of the pass) will be given according to the following schedule:

<u>Registration</u>
September-December 100%
January-March 75%
April-June 50%

<u>Refunds</u>
September-December 50%
January-March 25%
April-June 0%

Can I pay the transportation fee in installments?
No, full payment is required. Financial assistance is available. Please see below.

Can I pay the transportation fee with a credit card?
The district accepts credit card payments for transportation fees through Unibank. Please use the Online Registration and Payment Center link on the Student Transportation webpage.

Is there any financial assistance available if the bus fee causes hardship?
The School Committee has established an income-based waiver program for fee-based riders that offers free service or reduced fees to qualifying families. If qualified for Free and Reduced Lunch, free service may be obtained by providing a Sharing Information with Other Programs form available on the Food Services Department webpage. If you do not qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, you may still qualify for financial assistance under Wayland's program which has higher qualifying income limits. An explanation of the Financial Assistance Program, including income limits, and an application form can be found on the Student Transportation webpage or at the School Department's Business Office (2nd floor, Wayland Town Building).

Is there a penalty fee if my check is returned to the district for insufficient funds?
Yes. A fee of $25.00 will be assessed and must be paid in addition to the bus fee before a bus pass will be issued.

Why must I apply for a bus pass in May or June?
In order to plan the bus routes and prepare passes for mailing in August, the Business Office must receive all transportation requests by **the June 25th deadline**, excepting those from families who move to Wayland after the deadline has passed. **The bus fee per student increases to $230 on June 26th.**

Can my student ride home on a bus other than the one to which s/he is assigned?
No. Students may only ride their assigned bus. Transportation to social events, play dates, day care or religious classes is not permitted. Students with two residences in Wayland should contact the Transportation Coordinator at 508-358-3753 or dianne_potter@wayland.k12.ma.us

My student is on the crew team. Can I purchase an afternoon pass for her to ride to the lake for practice?
The additional fee for this service has been eliminated. The district will make arrangements to get the teams to the lake.

Can my student bring his/her large instrument or project on the bus?
No. Due to the narrow width of the school bus aisle and the height of the seat backs, no large instruments (e.g. cellos, French horns), large projects or large objects may be brought on the bus. In addition, a student must be able to carry and contain any and all items between his/her legs or on his/her lap during the course of the ride to and from school.

May my student eat or drink on the school bus?
No. Out of concern for the safety of students, particularly those who suffer from life-threatening allergies, food, including any type of candy or gum, and drinks are strictly prohibited from consumption on the school bus. All food, drink and candy must remain contained while on the school bus.

Who do I contact if my student has lost an item on the school bus?
Call the First Student Bus Dispatcher at (508) 358-7543 or e-mail Janet.Delano@firstgroup.com

Who do I call with concerns or questions about the day-to-day operation of the school bus?
Call the First Student Bus Dispatcher at (508) 358-7543 or e-mail Janet.Delano@firstgroup.com

Who do I call with concerns or questions about the route of the bus?
Call the Transportation Coordinator at (508) 358-3753 or e-mail dianne_potter@wayland.k12.ma.us