

WINCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible for public school transportation?

All students in grades K-12 are eligible for transportation, based on available space. Note: Please see #3 below for exceptions.

2. Is there a fee for transportation?

Yes, all students living less than 2 miles from their neighborhood school have the option to purchase a bus pass for the school year. Please refer to the fee schedule.

For the 2017-2018 school year:

	<u>One Student</u>		<u>Two Students</u>		<u>Family</u>	
	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way
Fee Before 7/31/17	\$525.00	\$335.00	\$785.00	\$520.00	\$920.00	\$600.00
Fee After 7/31/17	\$630.00	\$400.00	\$940.00	\$625.00	\$1,100.00	\$720.00

All applications must be received or postmarked by July 31st to receive the discounted rate.

3. Are there exceptions?

Transportation for students who are in grades K-6 and live MORE than 2 miles from the neighborhood school they attend will be provided transportation free of charge. Students in grades 7 – 12 must pay the fee to ride, regardless of location. If you are applying for free or reduced lunch, you may be eligible for a free bus pass. All requests must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed on an individual basis. A transportation application must be completed for all students in Grades K – 12, regardless of fee status. Without a completed application, a pass will not be issued.

4. Are refunds available?

Winchester Public School transportation's budget is based on ridership. As a result, refunds will be issued **only** under extraordinary circumstances.

5. Pro-rated fees?

WPS does not pro-rate the transportation fee unless you move into the district during the school year.

6. I open-enrolled my child in a school more than 2 miles from my home; will transportation be provided?

No, transportation will not be provided for students who are open enrolled. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide transportation for those students who attend schools out of their neighborhood district.

7. My child attends Day Care in the afternoon; will transportation be provided?

No, unless the day care provider is located within the neighborhood school district the child attends, transportation cannot be provided. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide transportation for those students.

8. My child attends the Winchester Recreation After-School Program; will transportation be provided?

Yes, Winchester Public Schools provides transportation for those students who attend the Winchester Recreation, Kids Corner and Chinese Culture School after school programs.

9. Where can I find the bus routes for the school year?

Bus routes are posted on the Winchester Public Schools website at: www.winchesterps.org - click on “Family Resources”, “Transportation”. Bus routes are published by late August.

10. How are the routes established?

For kindergarten and elementary level students, the Winchester School Department’s Transportation Office set a parameter of between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ miles as a reasonable distance that this age student can walk to a bus stop for transport to school. There may be exceptions. For middle school and high school students, the Winchester School Department Transportation office sets a parameter of $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 mile as a reasonable distance that this age student can walk to a bus stop for transport to school.

11. There is not a bus stop close to my home; can we add a stop?

New stops may be added for **safety reasons only**. All requests for adding or changing a bus stop must be submitted in writing to [*transportation@winchesterps.org*](mailto:transportation@winchesterps.org). All requests will be reviewed on an individual basis.

12. When will I receive the bus pass?

Passes are generally mailed to your home 5 – 7 days prior to the opening of school.

13. Method of Payment

There are two methods of payment: personal check or online payment using UNIPAY.

Please make your check payable to:

Winchester Public Schools

Attn: Transportation

40 Samoset Road

Winchester, Ma. 01890

UNIPAY <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/Default.aspx?customerid=837>

Accepted methods of payment: **MasterCard, Discover, or check.**

Please check the UNIPAY website for a listing of convenience fees for each online transaction.

Please note: if you have made a payment online, it is not necessary for you to also mail in a paper application.