

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our mission is for all students to be successful, engaged, lifelong learners

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION: 2009-10

Approved June 24, 2009

These arrangements have been prepared in the context of extraordinarily difficult financial circumstances. The fees charged will help to maintain educational programs and services, which would otherwise be lost or reduced.

This policy notice provides information on:

- school start and dismissal times
- bus fees
- fee payment schedule
- bus passes
- bus stops
- transport for after school programs
- safety and safety tips
- rules expectations of students

Details of bus routes and schedules will be published separately.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE:2009-2010

SCHOOL	DROP-OFF	START	DISMISSAL
O'MALEY	7:25	7:40	2:00
E. GLOUCESTER	8:10	8:30	2:30
PLUM COVE	8:10	8:30	2:30
BEEMAN	8:10	8:30	2:30
VETERANS'	8:40	9:00	3:00
WEST PARISH	8:40	9:00	3:00
ST. ANN'S	7:50	8:00	2:30
O'MALEY LATE RUN			3:30 – 3:45

Before-school child care will be available at the Veterans' Memorial and West Parish Elementary Schools as they have the later 9.00 am start times.

Registration for these programs will be made through the school.

Explanation

This schedule places the longest bus runs at the end of schedule, which will reduce the possibility of buses being late for afternoon pick-up. It also provides the greatest flexibility in providing transport for athletics and field visits.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

In accordance with the law, free transportation will be provided for all students in Grades K through 6 enrolled in their neighborhood school, and who live more than 2 miles from school. Free transportation is not provided for students who attend a school under the district's school choice arrangements.

PAID TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided for a fee as follows:

Grades K-2 **over 1 mile to 2 miles**

Grades 3-5 **over 1.5 miles to 2 miles**

Grades 7-8 **over 2 miles**

Elementary students in Grades K-2 who live less than 1 mile from their neighborhood school and live in the vicinity of an existing bus stop may request to ride the bus for the full fee if space permits.

Elementary students in grades 3-5 who live less than 1.5 miles from their neighborhood school and live in the vicinity of an existing bus stop may request to ride the bus for the full fee if space permits.

Students in Grade 6 who live over 1.5 miles but less than 2 miles may request to ride the bus for the full fee if space permits.

Eligibility requirements for siblings who attend the same school will be based on the mileage limits for the youngest sibling.

FEE SCHEDULE

Full Fare **\$150 per rider** **Family Cap** **\$300 per family.**

A one way pass for \$100 will be available on a space available basis only: one way passes will be processed only after two way passes are processed.

All eligible bus students who qualify for free or reduced lunch will be eligible for a reduced fee as follows:

Reduced Lunch **\$75 per rider** **One Way** **\$50** **Family Cap** **\$150**

Free Lunch **Free**

No fee will be reduced unless a Financial Application is filed and approved

Application forms are available on-line, at schools and the district office.

The income level must fall within the established limits set out on the income chart. Supporting documentation of income **must be provided**.

FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1st installment equal to ½ a student's or family cap bus fee is due by August 1, 2009

2nd installment is due by February 1st, 2010

Payment is by check or money order. Cash will not be accepted.

A \$25.00 fee will be charged for late payments and for any returned checks. Late payments may delay ridership.

BUS PASSES

Bus passes will be issued at the student's school during the second week of school. There will be a fee of \$5.00/Grades K-5 and \$10.00/Grades6-8 for a replacement pass. **Once issued, students will not be allowed on buses without a pass, including late buses.** Students must ride the bus to which they have been assigned.

SCHOOL BUS STOPS

The school bus routes in 2009-10 will be similar to the current ones. Children will walk to a centrally located common stop. The district is not able to provide a street-to-street or door-to-door pick up or drop-off service. Additional stops increase journey times and gas consumption.

Parents/guardians are responsible for getting their child to the correct bus stop and for ensuring their safety at the bus stop.

The location of bus stops may change from year to year according to service demand.

School bus drivers are not permitted to make changes, additions or deletions of any bus stops.

All Kindergarten students must be met at the bus stop by an adult. Students not met will be brought back to school. Bus routes will be published in the local paper the week before school starts.

School bus routes will also be available on the Gloucester Public Schools website at www.gloucesterschools.com

Please see the Annex I for details of why bus stops are located where they are.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Elementary and Middle School students who travel by bus to a district after school program and live in the vicinity of an existing bus stop may purchase a one way bus pass if the student is otherwise ineligible.

DESIGNATED SAFETY AREAS

Responsibility for students getting to bus stops safely is the responsibility of parents and guardians.

Elementary School Students who would be required to walk through areas designated by the Gloucester School Committee from time to time as areas of concern due to safety considerations will be eligible to ride the bus regardless of distance. However the fee schedule will apply.

GENERAL SAFETY

Please see Annex II for tips on safety.

BUS RIDING RULES AND PRIVILEGES

Terms and Conditions for bus riding privileges are as follows:

1. A bus pass may not be used by anyone other than the individual for whom the pass was purchased.
2. The bus pass must be shown upon boarding the bus.
3. The bus will be boarded in an orderly manner.
4. While riding on the bus, students are prohibited from moving about, throwing objects, or extending any part of their bodies outside of the bus, which could distract the driver from the safe operation of the vehicle.
5. Students are not permitted to open doors or windows without permission of the bus driver. Students are not to touch emergency exits, unless instructed to do so.
6. Smoking or lighting anything on the bus is prohibited by State Law; this also refers to drugs and alcohol.
7. Students may not change buses or bus stops without prior approval of the Transportation Dept.

Gloucester Public Schools Student Bus Policy is always in effect. Riding the school bus is a privilege. Behavior issues will be dealt with in accordance to School Policy. Suspension or the revocation of riding privileges will not be a basis for a refund of bus fees.

GENERAL LAWS

MGL Chap 71, S.68 and Ch.76, S.1 mandates free public transportation for those students who live two or more miles walking distance from the school which they are entitled to attend for Kindergarten to Grade 6 only. There is no requirement to provide transportation for students in Grades 7-12, regardless of the distance between residence and school.

Annex 1

CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING BUS STOPS

- located at centralized locations where students may safely load and unload, cross highways, and await arrival of buses
- road conditions, speed limits and traffic volume
- adequate clear vision for pedestrians and traffic in each direction
- located away from known hazards, i.e.: railroads, cliffs, rivers, high speed highway on and off ramps, known residences of sexual offenders
- buses do not need to back up to either enter or leave the location
- within reasonable walking distances from students' homes, and no more than 1 mile from a student's home
- journey times are reasonable given the resources available
- the age and the number of students at the bus stop
- whenever possible, near street corners or landmarks
- on maintained public roads only

Families are responsible for the safety of students traveling to and from, and waiting at bus stops.

Annex2

SAFETY TIPS FOR FAMILIES

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO GET ON AND OFF THE BUS SAFELY:

- * When getting on the bus, stay away from the danger zone and wait for the driver's signal. Board the bus one at a time.
- * When getting off the bus, look before stepping off the bus to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder (side of the road). Move away from the bus.
- * Before crossing the street, take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen (A). Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- * Look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped. Keep watching traffic when crossing.

SAFETY STEPS YOU CAN TAKE:

- * Supervise children to make sure they get to the stop on time, wait far away from the road, and avoid rough play.
- * Teach your child to ask the driver for help if he/she drops something near the bus. If a child bends down to pick up something, the driver cannot see him/her and the child may be hit by the bus. Have your child use a backpack or book bag to keep loose items together.
- * Make sure clothing and backpacks have no loose drawstrings or long straps, to get caught in the handrail or bus door.
- * Encourage safe school bus loading and unloading.
- * If you think a bus stop is in a dangerous place, talk with your school office or transportation manager about changing the location.
- * Encourage your child to walk with friends, stay off the pavement, walk on the grass beside the pavement if there is no sidewalk, always walk towards traffic, and obey traffic lights and signals; and when crossing streets to cross only at corners and use crosswalks.