



## **NATICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS - TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS**

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A TOWN PAID SCHOOL BUS PASS?**

For the 2009-2010 school year, the School Committee has voted the State Mandate of only students in Grades K-6 who reside more than two miles from their districted school are eligible for Town paid bus pass. These students must be registered by the deadline date of June 15, 2009 to be included in the bus counts. Eligibility measurements were determined by the Town's GIS system, using the shortest walking route to the bus drop off point at the school. (Eligible Street Listing available at [www.natickps.org](http://www.natickps.org) click on District Information; Transportation)

All other K-6 students and all grade 7-12 students will have the option to purchase a bus pass by the June 1st deadline date. Bus passes are \$150.00 per student; \$300.00 family unit maximum. To be included in our bus counts, all riders must submit a registration form with the non-refundable full payment (check or money order; no cash, please) by the June 15, 2009 deadline date. On-line payment through Uni-Bank/Uni-Pay, using debit checking, or Credit Card, is an option at our website [www.natickps.org](http://www.natickps.org) The June 15, 2009 deadline date applies. Bus route assignments cannot be guaranteed to any student registered after the deadline date. (New residents exempt based on seat availability) Bus passes will be mailed to students who have paid in full sometime in late August. Bus pass fees cannot be pro-rated for one way, part year or less than full use. Refunds will be honored prior to the first day of school, only if there is a student waiting for a seat assignment for that bus route. Once school begins, no refunds will be issued.

### **HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?**

Waivers are available to families earning less than double the Federal poverty guideline, and reduced fees for families earning less than three times the Federal poverty guideline. A Waiver Form will be mailed to those who have requested one on the bus pass registration form, (**deadline date of June 15, 2009 applies**). The Director of Fiscal and Management Services for the Natick Public Schools will review the waiver applications and income information. You will be notified by mail of his decision. All applications are kept confidential. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please check the following federal website for the federal poverty guidelines at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml>

### **DOES MY CHILD NEED A BUS PASS TO BOARD THE SCHOOL BUS?**

**Yes** - All bus students are required to carry their bus pass on a daily basis, and present the pass to the driver each day. We suggest attaching the pass to the inside of back pack. This will keep the pass secure, and allow the student to display it without delay. If a student does not have the pass, the driver has been instructed to tell the student "*you must report directly to the office and let them know you do not have a pass*". The driver writes a "no pass" slip (driver has verbally warned student prior) which is submitted to the Bus Company for distribution to our office. Our office faxes a copy to the school main

office who will address with student. School personnel will assist student in contacting parent/guardian. If parent/guardian cannot obtain a replacement pass the same day, the parent/guardian must request permission from the Transportation Office (508-647-6497) for the student to board bus in the afternoon. (A back-up plan is encouraged.) It is anticipated that a replacement pass will be obtained within twenty-four hours. Lost passes may be replaced at the School Department Transportation Business Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Town Hall, for a \$5.00 replacement charge, payable by check or money order **(no cash, please), between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.** Out of fairness to those who has purchased a bus pass, should you suspect a bus pass has been duplicated or re-produced, please notify the Transportation Business Office at 508-647-6497.

### **CAN MY CHILD RIDE HOME ON ANOTHER BUS?**

**Unfortunately, No.** For liability purposes, as well as safety issues, students may only ride their assigned buses. Transporting students to social events, daycare or religious classes is not permitted. Should there be a family emergency or medical situation, parents should notify the school Principal and temporary arrangements will be made. We offer a second pass/route assignment (based on space availability) for \$75.00 per second bus route/pass, each student; no family unit maximum applies.

### **I HAVE JOINT CUSTODY OF MY CHILD. CAN SHE/HE RIDE TWO DIFFERENT BUSES?**

Our second pass/route assignment would be an option for you to purchase for \$75.00 each pass, on a space available basis.

### **HOW DO I FIND OUT WHEN AND WHERE BUS STOPS WILL BE LOCATED?**

Bus routes will be posted on our website [www.natickps.org](http://www.natickps.org) in late August, prior to the opening of school, after bus passes have been mailed to students. Routes will be published in the local newspapers, and each school main office. Students are expected to board the bus at “common” bus stops. *Please be reminded that parents and guardians are responsible for the supervision and safety of their/children until the child boards the bus in the morning, and once the child leaves the bus at the end of the day.*

**LATE BUSES:** High School and Middle School bus pass holders will be eligible to ride the Late Buses. The Late Buses stop only at pre-determined designated stops throughout town. (School Main Offices has Late Bus route information; or visit our website) The student must be a registered bus pass holder and show the bus pass to the driver to board a Late Bus. Late Buses leave Middle Schools at 3:05 p.m. and the High School at 3:20 p.m. (Monday-Thursday).

### **CAN A STUDENT'S CONDUCT RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM THE SCHOOL BUS?**

**YES** – Bus Conduct is an extension of the classroom. Students are expected to behave in a manner which will provide for optimum safety of the individual student as well as all others aboard the bus. Conduct Rules & Policy are located on our website. Please take a moment and review the rules with your child/children. Should your child lose bus privileges, refunds will not be honored.