



Peabody Public Schools

21 Johnson Street, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960
Telephone: 978-531-1600

June 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

MGL Chap 71, Section 68 mandates free public transportation for those students who live more than two miles from the school which they are entitled to attend for students **KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 6 ONLY**. This eliminates any requirements to provide transportation for students grades 7-12 regardless of the distance between residence and school.

At their School Committee meeting on May 17, 2011, the Peabody School Committee voted to impliment a discount for on time bus transportation payments for the 2011-2012 school year. Full payment received by **July 15, 2011** will allow a \$25.00 discount per student. The on time fee is \$275.00 per student with a family cap of \$550.00. A payment received after the due date (July 15, 2011) will be \$300.00 per student with a family cap of \$600.00. In case of financial hardship, assistance for those families who are eligible, may be provided.

We will offer paid bus transportation under our current mileage and safey zones. All eligible students who live under 2 miles from school will be required to pay the fee. Busing will continue to be provided for those Special Education Students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) requires it.

Enclosed you will find a Bus Transportation Application that **needs to be completed for all riders** whether it is **paid or free transportation**. If you have more than one child in the Peabody Public Schools you may receive more than one packet. Depending on the ages and schools of your children, one may be eligible for free bus transportation while another may not. A **separate** application must be submitted for each student.

All Bus Transportation Applications and **full payment**, if applicable, must be returned to the Transportation Office on or before **July 15, 2011** to ensure a bus seat and to qualify for the discount.

Students who are eligible for free transportation **must** submit an application to ensure a bus seat as well. All applications received after July 15, 2011 will be subject to seat availability. If you sign up for paid bus transportation you are obligated for the entire year. If you have any questions, please call the Peabody Public Schools Transportation Office at (978) 536-6581.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Peabody Public Schools SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

FREE TRANSPORTATION

For students enrolled in their neighborhood school, free transportation will be provided as per the following distances:

Kindergarten more than 2 miles
Grades 1-5 more than 2 miles
Grades 6 more than 2 miles

PAID TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided for a fee for the following students:

Kindergarten over ½ mile to 2 miles
Grades 1-5 over 1 mile to 2 miles
Grade 6 over 1 ½ miles to 2 miles
Grades 7-8 over 1 ½ miles
Grades 9-12 over 2 miles

Hardship applications will be available for you to apply for a reduced fee or free transportation. No Fee is reduced unless a Financial Application is completed.

PAYMENT/DISCOUNT

Payment must be made in full; Discount payment is \$275.00 per student, \$550.00 family cap due on or before July 15, 2011 for reserving transportation. Payment received after July 15, 2011 will be \$300.00 per student, with a \$600.00 family cap. Payments are accepted by personal check, bank check or money order only. **Cash will not be accepted.**

BUS PASSES

Bus passes will be mailed home the week before school starts. There will be a fee of \$5.00/Grades K-6 and \$10.00 Grades 7-12 for a replacement pass. **Students will not be allowed on buses without a pass, including late buses.** Students must ride the bus they have been assigned to.

SCHOOL BUS STOPS

The bus routes will be similar to the current ones. Children will walk to a common bus stop. Students are not entitled to street to street or door to door pickup or delivery. Parents are responsible for getting the child to the correct bus stop. Do not assume the bus stops are in the same locations as the previous year as they may change. School bus drivers are not permitted to make changes, additions or deletions of any bus stops. All kindergarten students must be met and taken from the school bus by an adult. Bus routes will be published the week before school starts in the local newspapers and www.peabody.k12.ma.us.

Please note that the Peabody 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 revocations of riding privileges will not afford a refund of bus fees for any reason.

