



Peabody Public Schools

21 Johnson Street, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

Telephone: 978-531-1600

May 2016

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**. There is no state requirement to provide transportation for students in grades 7-12 regardless of the distance between residence and school.

At their School Committee meeting on April 26, 2016, the Peabody School Committee voted to implement a Transportation Fee for the 2016-2017 school year. The fee for ROUND TRIP transportation (to and from school) is \$300.00 per student with a family cap of \$600.00. The fee for ONE WAY transportation (AM from home to school or PM from school to home) is \$200.00 per student with a family cap of \$600.00. Full payment must be received by July 15, 2016. Payments received after July 15, 2016 will be subject to seat availability.

Full payments received on or before July 1, 2016 will allow a \$25.00 discount per student.

In case of financial hardship, assistance for those families who are eligible may be provided.

We will offer paid bus transportation for distances under our current mileage and safety 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) require it.

Enclosed you will find a Bus Transportation Application that **must 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, 2016** to ensure a bus seat.

Students who are eligible for free transportation **must** submit an application to ensure a bus seat as well. All applications received after July 15, 2016 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.

We 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

Payment must be made in full; ROUND TRIP PAYMENT (to and from school) is \$300.00 per student with a family cap of \$600.00. ONE WAY PAYMENT (AM home to school or PM school to home) is \$200.00 per student with a family cap of \$600.00. Full payment is due on or before July 15, 2016 to reserve transportation. Full payments received on or before July 1, 2016 will allow a \$25.00 discount per student. Acceptable forms of payment are: 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-5 and \$10.00 Grades 6-12 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 school year 2016-2017 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.