

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Title</i> TRANSPORTATION - STUDENT	<i>Code</i> EEA
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HOLLISTON

Since 2006 the Holliston Public Schools (HPS) have not had adequate funding for free transportation services. However, it is the School Committee’s goal to eliminate transportation fees. This policy delineates two possible scenarios.

1. Adequate Budget Transportation Eligibility

If the budget allows, students who are residents of the Town of Holliston shall be provided with free transportation over town-accepted roads to and from the Holliston Public Schools. A map will be provided in the Office of the Superintendent, and the minimum guidelines are described below:

- Preschoolers are not entitled to transportation services unless the student has an Individualized Education Program that requires transportation services.
- Grades K, 1 and 2 are entitled to transportation services with the exception of those living in proximity to the school, as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- Grades 3-5 living approximately one mile or more from the school are entitled to transportation services.
- Grade 6-8 living approximately one and one half miles or more from the school are entitled to transportation services.
- Grades 9-12 living approximately one and one half miles or more from the school are entitled to transportation services.

The Holliston School Committee may choose to offer transportation beyond the above guidelines for a fee.

Exceptions to these guidelines may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee after consultation with the Holliston Police Department.

2. Inadequate Budget Transportation Eligibility

*The following are minimum requirements. If the annual school budget does not fully fund transportation, the Holliston School Committee may choose to offer transportation beyond the State minimums for a fee.

*M.G.L. Chapter 71: Section 68. If the distance between a child’s residence and the school he is entitled to attend exceeds two miles, and the nearest school bus stop is more than one mile from such residence, and the School Committee declines to furnish transportation, the department, upon appeal of the parent or guardian of the child, may require the town to furnish transportation for children in grades kindergarten through 6 for a part of or all of the distance between said child’s residence and the school...No school committee shall be compelled to furnish transportation on a private way. In the case of transportation provided to students that is not required by this section or by any other general or special law, a school committee may assess fees to the transported student up to an amount sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the district; provided, however, that no student eligible for free or reduced lunch under the federal school lunch program shall be required to pay the fee; and provided further, that a school committee may choose to exempt families at other income levels as it may determine.

Exceptions:

The Superintendent or designee may waive these eligibility requirements if a student’s health and/or safety might be affected by the lack of school bus transportation. Determination of waiver will take bus space availability into consideration. A fee may be required.

Transportation of students on buses that are not regularly assigned to them may be allowed in order to permit these students to attend after-school activities within the town. There must be adequate room on the existing bus, and no additional cost to the town shall be incurred for this transportation. The principal or designee will make adjustments regarding special arrangements for this type of transportation.

Children of Bus Drivers:

Bus drivers may not transport their own children without the prior approval of the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee will make these decisions based on load limit and safety.

School Bus Stops:

There will be designated bus stops that can only be modified after consultation with and the agreement of the safety officer. The bus shall pick up and drop off students only at the designated bus stop. If, in the judgment of the driver, there are safety concerns about discharging a student at the designated bus stop, the driver will return the student to school, and every attempt will be made to notify the parents. Requests for a change of the designated bus stop of a student must be made in writing to the transportation coordinator. In emergencies, a verbal request may be made by the parent followed by a written request within one school day.

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