

# ROWELL'S



## TRANSPORTATION, LLC

Dear Parents,

RSU #68 is provided school bus transportation from private contractors, mainly Rowell's Garage and Weymouth's Bus Service. Safety is our number 1 priority and we feel there is a certain level of safety being compromised mostly in the form of miscommunication to no communication from parents in regards to their students' school bus transportation. It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make each trip as safe as possible. The more communication between parents and contractors prior to the student ever stepping onto the bus helps to ensure your child reaches their location safely.

The school bus contractors need to be contacted first when you are interested in your child being transported by the bus, K-12. In that conversation, we will be asking certain questions so we are confident we know where you are located and that your child is properly registered for the correct bus, know of any special conditions (health, behavior, custody, etc) that we should be aware of, know if you are intending to sign a waiver, which needs to be signed EVERY year, for your 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger child to get off the bus without an adult or older sibling present, etc. The contractors also need to hear from parents when you are asking to have your child ride a different bus, when space is available, or get off at a different location. We will want the address and a contact number for the new location. It is not the responsibility of the school offices to call for this information. After you have spoken to the contractors, please call or email the school office, as well as your child's individual teacher at the elementary level, so they are aware of your plans. Your email or note generates a bus pass for your child, K-12, to give to the bus driver as they get on the bus. If they do not have a pass they will not be able to access the bus or get off at a different stop. The more advance notice we have, the better and safer we can provide the service.

Each year, prior to the start of school, Rowell's publishes the school bus numbers and routes in the newspaper, on the school web site and Rowell's website. Bus numbers and routes can and do change. We try to keep change minimal during the year to avoid confusion, but during the summer things are changed/updated as needed.

This year, we have had so many instances of children not being properly registered for the bus, last minute changes, no communication from parents whose children ride a bus, but decide to have them dropped off at a different location on the same bus route. This can cause severe anxiety for both the driver and the child and we feel our standard for safe transportation has been compromised. For the safety of our passengers and the peace of mind for our drivers, we have chosen to require ALL parents to call or email a minimum of 5 days in advance of the start of school next year, 2022, and every year going forward to register their children for the school bus. Also, going forward, we would ask parents to plan ahead as far as possible, keeping in mind emergencies do exist, in the event you would like to have your child ride a different bus or get off at a different location to contact us at least 2 days in advance. This gives us time to notify the driver and for the driver to find the location along their route in an attempt to avoid any complications on the day your child will ride to a different location.

Please view any inconveniences as a safety measure for our children.

Respectfully,

Jenny Chase; Transportation Director, Rowell's Transportation LLC, 207-564-3434 x212

Malcolm Weymouth; Weymouth Bus Service, 207-285-3169