

Regional School District #10
Serving the Towns of Harwinton and Burlington

FRAN THOMPSON EdD
Superintendent of Schools



SUSAN LAONE
Director of Finance and Operations

July 1, 2026

Dear Region 10 Families,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the final days of summer.

As we gear up for the start of the 2026–2027 school year, I want to take a moment to share our updated transportation information. This annual memo includes details about bus routes, important safety procedures, and helpful contact numbers in case you need to reach us or our transportation partners.

Ensuring that every student travels safely to and from school is one of our top priorities—and it's a team effort. We've worked closely with our bus company, school administrators, and staff to outline clear expectations and practices that help create a smooth and safe experience for all. We ask that you take a few minutes to review the memo with your child and reinforce the importance of following bus safety rules each day.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership. Your support helps us start the year strong and keep our buses running safely and efficiently. If you have any feedback or suggestions for future transportation updates, we'd love to hear from you. Feel free to reach out via our website at www.region10ct.org or by emailing me directly at Thompsonf@region10ct.org.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Fran Thompson
Superintendent of Schools

cc: S. Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
Board of Education Members
District Principals

24 Lyon Road • Burlington, Connecticut 06013
Telephone (860) 673-2538 • Fax (860) 673-7534
Website www.region10ct.org

I. Bus Contact Information

All-Star Transportation
529 Burlington Road
Harwinton, CT 06791

860-605-9285

II. School Contact Information

Harwinton Consolidated School
Jessica Bruenn, Principal
860-485-9029
Office hours: 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Lake Garda Elementary School
Alissa Keane, Principal
860-673-2511
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Har-Bur Middle School
Joseph Masi, Principal
860-673-6163
Office hours: 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lewis S. Mills High School
Christopher Rau, Principal
860-673-0423
Office hours: 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Central Office – Business
860-673-2538 Ext. 10139: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

III. School Hours

Lewis S. Mills High School:	7:25 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Har-Bur Middle School:	8:05 a.m. – 2:48 p.m.
Harwinton Consolidated:	9:05 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.
PreK AM	9:05 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.
PM	1:05 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.
Lake Garda School:	9:05 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.
PreK AM	9:05 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.
PM	1:05 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.

IV. Bus Transportation Procedures and Information

Please take a few moments to review this information with your child(ren). Safety must be communicated to everyone involved in transporting students. You play an important role in ensuring your child's safety.

1. Safety Includes a Partnership Approach.....

Parents are responsible for their children while they are waiting for the bus and after they have exited the bus at their designated bus stop when returning home. It is the responsibility of parents to be available at the return stop as necessary to meet their children. Please review back-up plans with your child if you are not available at the pick-up time. It is also the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the student is waiting at his/her designated stop on time. Always arrive at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the bus is due to arrive. Should a student miss the bus, the parent must find alternate means of transporting the child to school. **Under no circumstances should a parent**

drive behind the bus and try to board their child at the next stop. The driver is not expecting a child to be running along the side of the bus and a child could easily slip under the wheels.

2. Parents are not permitted to board the bus for any reason.

3. Drop off procedures:

Kindergarten students: driver must see a parent/guardian at the stop before dropping off the student. If no parent is present, the driver must make contact with the garage/dispatcher who will then call the school office to attempt to contact the parent. If no contact is made, child will be returned to the school after all other students have been discharged.

Grades 1-2 – If only one student is being discharged and an older sibling or parent is not present or the child is unsure if parent is at home, the driver must contact the garage/dispatcher and follow guidelines as outlined above.

All Grades– If child tells driver that he/she is on the wrong bus after the bus has left the school, the driver should contact the garage/dispatcher for advice as to how to proceed.

4. Please be advised that bus pick-up times noted on our bus routes are **estimated** times and are subject to change during the year due to bus route changes. This is especially true in the first few weeks of school when timing and routing adjustments are being made. There are new students, routes and drivers, and understandably there is an adjustment period. **Children should be at the bus stop 10 minutes before scheduled time of arrival and wait 10 minutes after scheduled arrival time.** We ask for your patience as we work out the schedule!

5. We strongly encourage you to use District provided transportation. In the event that you need to drop-off or pick-up your child(ren) from school, please follow procedures established at each building. It is important that you **do not park or drop off in the designated bus lanes.** In addition, **driving past a bus with its lights flashing is illegal even in a parking lot.** These activities are not only extremely hazardous, but also impair the flow of bus traffic and causes delays.

6. In the event of an official* change to your child's schedule due to an after school activity or parent pick up, please send a note to school with your child. If you forget to send a note you must call the main office of your child's school by 12:00 PM so that we have time to communicate the change to your child's teacher. Last minute changes due to family emergencies can be addressed by phone through the school's main office.

*Official After School Activity = PTA, PTO, PTSA, Town Park & Rec., or Region 10 events

V. Emergency Procedures

If a child has not arrived at his/her destination at the end of the school day, call the school, or if the school cannot be reached call:

All-Star Transportation – 860-605-9285

The following information will be needed:

1. Child's Name and Address
2. School and Grade
3. Bus Route Number

Know your child's bus route number to and from home – it saves time!

- Please wait for the school or bus company to return your call. Your child may have missed getting off at his/her bus stop and the driver is in the process of returning to that stop at the end of the route.
- If school is in session, the child may be returned to his/her school.

VI. Scheduled Half Days

There are specific days designated for staff development, conferences or high school exams requiring students to attend for a half day. The following are the scheduled times for these days:

Lewis S. Mills High School (exams)	7:25 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
Har-Bur Middle School	8:05 a.m. - 12:18 p.m.
Lake Garda School	9:05 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
AM PreK	9:05 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
PM PreK	11:20 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Harwinton Consolidated School	9:05 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
AM PreK	9:05 a.m. – 10:45a.m.
PM PreK	11:20 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

VII. Inclement Weather

We make every effort to announce late openings, cancellations, and school closings as early as possible.

Late Openings:

Late Openings are 2 hour delay at each school. NO AM PreK

Early Closings:

The following schedule will be used for early closings due to inclement weather:

Lewis S. Mills High School	11:30 a.m. dismissal
Har-Bur Middle School	12:18 a.m. dismissal
Elementary schools	1:00 p.m. dismissal
AM PreK	11:35 parent transport, 1:00 p.m. bussed students
NO PM PreK	

Other School Weather Related Transportation

See Appendix A and Appendix B

We will also make direct contact with you through our School Messenger Alert System in the event of school closings, delays or early closings.

Announcements of school closings, delays or early closings are also made on:

WFSB Channel 3 TV

WTNH Channel 8 TV

WVIT Channel 30 TV

Fox 61 TV

Or at our Website: www.region10ct.org

IX. Rules For The Conduct of Pupils On School Buses

1. The driver is in full charge of the bus and of all pupils riding therein at all times while pupils are being transported to and from school. The driver will abide by all rules and regulations adopted by the school authorities for the conduct of pupils riding on the bus.
2. Pupils must take a seat when they enter the bus and remain seated at all times while the bus is in motion.
3. Any teasing, mean behavior or fighting on a school bus is strictly prohibited and will be reported to appropriate school administrators.
4. Indecent or profane language, smoking, alcohol/drug use, weapons, rowdyism, loud talking, card playing, or unnecessary conversation with the driver are expressly prohibited.
5. The use of cell phones is permitted providing it is not disruptive to other students and the bus driver.
6. Pupils must not throw any object in or out of the bus.
7. Pupils must not, at any time, extend their arms or head out of the bus window.
8. Pupils must not open bus windows without permission from the driver.
9. Pupils shall enter and leave the bus only at the front door except in cases of emergency.
10. Pupils must be on time and, at all times, cooperate in keeping the bus on schedule.
11. Pupils shall, after disembarking from the bus, cross the road, if necessary, in front of the bus, being careful to see that traffic is halted. Bus drivers will determine that traffic has halted and that it is safe to cross in front of the bus. It is the responsibility of the pupil to cross the road safely while the bus remains stationary.
12. Parents of pupils who damage or deface any bus shall be held liable for such damage.
13. NO eating or drinking on the bus.

X. Penalties For Bus Violations

In cases where behavior becomes a problem on the bus, the driver can assign seats for safety purposes. The driver will report in writing any student for disciplinary action who has continual infractions or serious infractions to the Associate Principal or Principal for further disciplinary action. Parents will be notified.

XI. Video Cameras On Buses

To improve safety and discipline on the Region #10 school buses, video camera equipment is used on All-Star Transportation buses.

School administrators use the video monitoring system to review student and/or driver behavior on buses and to assist in properly identifying students who misbehave.

Student discipline is an especially challenging responsibility for bus drivers and school administrators. Misbehavior can create a safety hazard for everyone. The school administration is continuing to improve safety on school buses for our students. With this monitoring system, bus drivers will be able to maintain better control of students while riding our buses.

XII. Emergency Drills

Each year the bus drivers conduct drills on emergency exit procedures with students. The administration works with the bus companies to ensure that all procedures are followed.

XIII. Driver Training

All drivers receive comprehensive training on safety, bus operation, rules of the road, speed limits and interaction with students, staff and parents. Background checks are done for all drivers. If you have a concern, please notify the bus company.

XIV. Requests to Change Pick Ups/Drop Offs (applies to all schools)

Bus routes and stops are developed taking into consideration safety and efficiency. To this end, the Board of Education may accommodate **one** permanent Monday through Friday pick-up and drop-off schedule for each child per school year provided it is along established bus routes. In the event a permanent change to a pick-up and drop-off schedule is needed during a school year, **a written request must be submitted to the school principal at least three weeks in advance of such change.**

XVI. Transportation Policy

Regional School District #10 Transportation Policy #5541.2 is attached for your information. Any administrative decisions made with respect to this policy may be appealed in writing to the Board of Education as per State Statute #GSA Sec. 10-186.

TRANSPORTATION

The Regional School District #10 Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide safe, courteous and efficient transportation services for its students. Designated routes and bus stops for students shall be established by the Board of Education through the Business Manager, with advice of the bus contractors, in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Definitions

a. "School transportation" means the procedures, program or fully effective and implemented plan by which a pupil is conveyed to and/or from school from his/her residence or the bus stop at public expense whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract. Such transportation shall be over public roads approved by the municipality or private roads approved pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-220c.

b. "Walking distance" means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the pupil's residence and his school from a point at the curb or edge of a public or private road nearest the pupil's residence to a point at the entrance of the school, or a safe entrance to the school grounds located within one hundred feet of the school building entrance or the bus pickup area, or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus or vehicle embarkation point established by the Board of Education.

c. "One mile walking distance" means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet, but not more than 5,380 feet.

d. "Grade K" means kindergarten, or a school program appropriate to a beginning pupil.

e. "Hazard" means a thing or condition, as prescribed in these guidelines, affecting the safety of pupils walking to and from school or designated point of embarkment (bus stop).

f. "Pupil" means any individual of school age enrolled in a public or nonprofit private school located within the school district or contiguous school district as the case may be.

2. Hazardous conditions

a. The maximum walking distance from home to school or to a prescribed point of embarkation are the following: (1) pupils enrolled in Grade PreK through 4, one mile; (2) pupils enrolled in middle school grades 5 through 8, one and one-half miles; and (3) pupils enrolled in high school grades 9 through 12, two miles. Any walking route to either the bus stop or the school which is in excess of the above distances shall be hazardous.

b. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalk or raised walk areas shall be deemed hazardous if one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. For pupils enrolled in grades PreK through 4, any street, road or highway possessing a traffic count of sixty or more vehicles per hour at the time that pupils are walking to and from school or designated bus stop and where posted speed limits are in excess of 35 miles per hour.

2. For all pupils, the usual or frequent presence of man-made hazards such as open man-holes, dangerous construction, snow plowed or piled on the walk are making walkways unusable, loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park on walkways, commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing walking areas at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, and the like.

3. For all pupils when the line-of-sight visibility at the appointed bus stop together with posted speed limits do not permit vehicular braking/stopping in accordance with the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Design Manual, revised, except in those cases in which a road is less than 22 feet unplowed, or 20 feet plowed. The line of sight requirements of this section do not apply to bus stops located on roads that are less than the required width. When measuring road width under this paragraph 2.b.3, the measurement is to be taken where the bus stop is located. All line of sight measurements using the Department of Transportation Highway Design Manual only require measuring outward from the bus stop - they do not apply to other portions of the road along which a student walks.

4. A lake, pond, stream, culvert, water-way or bridge within ten feet of a walk area shall be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the pupil and the water for pupils in grades PreK through 4, except in those cases in which a road is less than 22 feet unplowed, or 20 feet plowed.

5. Any area adjacent and within five feet of a roadway, walkway, sidewalk, or bridge having a drop of three or more feet per four feet of travel length on either side of the established lanes, the absence of a fence or other

suitable barrier shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades PreK through 4, except in those cases in which a road is less than 22 feet unplowed, or 20 feet plowed.

6. Walking to and from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or any time one-half hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades PreK through 8.

c. Any street, road, walkway, sidewalk or path designated as a walking route for all school pupils which passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts of molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm or moral degradation during the hours when pupils ordinarily walk to or from school shall be deemed hazardous.

3. These guidelines are applicable to private roads approved for passage of school transportation vehicles in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-220c. In no case shall this policy be interpreted to require the Board of Education to transport any student except as identified below in #4 on a public or private road which is less than 22 feet wide unplowed, or 20 feet plowed.

4. Pupils possessing physical handicaps and/or health conditions rendering them unable to walk to either the bus stop or school and Special Education pupils shall be judged on an individual basis.

5. Designated Bus Routes and Stops

Bus routes and stops are developed taking into consideration safety and efficiency. To this end, the Board of Education may accommodate one permanent Monday through Friday pick-up and drop-off schedule for each child per school year provided it is along established bus routes. In the event a permanent change to a pick-up and drop-off schedule is needed during a school year, a written request must be submitted to the school principal at least three weeks in advance of such change.

Policy adopted: March 1985

Policy revised: August 23, 1998

Policy revised: June 11, 2001

Policy reviewed: July 1, 2009

Policy revised: March 2012

Policy revised: October 17, 2022

Region 20 Inclement Weather Day Transportation Guidelines

- If there is a cancelation or delay for Region 10, then **ALL** buses will be canceled/delayed for the announced increment of time set by Region 10 administration.
- If there is **NO** delay for Region 10, but **THERE IS** a delay for REGION 20, then transportation will be as follows:
 - Region 20 students will be picked up at the centralized bus stop once all Region 10 bus runs are completed.
 - Students will arrive to school (Region 20) at approximately 10:30 am.
- If there is an unscheduled early release for Region 10, the bus company will contact Region 20 to release Harwinton and Burlington students for early pick up based on Region 10's early release schedule.
- If Region 20 has an early release and Region 10 does not, then students will be picked up based on Region 20's schedule and brought to their alternate bus stops.
- If Region 10 has a scheduled day off and Region 20 does not, buses will run on Region 20's schedule for alternate bus stops.

Appendix B

ALL OTHER Inclement Weather Day Transportation Guidelines

- If there is a cancelation/delay for Region 10, then **ALL** buses will be canceled/delayed for the announced increment of time set by Region 10 administration.
- If there is **NO** cancelation/delay for Region 10, but **THERE IS** a cancelation/delay for your magnet school, then transportation will be canceled/delayed for the announced increment of time set by the magnet school
- If there is **NO** delay for Region 10, but **THERE IS** a delay for Oliver Wolcott Tech., then transportation will run on Region 10's time schedule. Oliver Wolcott Tech. will open its cafeteria to receive students to wait for their school day to start.
- If there is **NO** delay for Region 10, but **THERE IS** a delay for Region 20, then transportation will run on Region 10's time schedule. Students will be picked up at their *central* bus stop once all Region 10 bus runs are completed. Pick up times for students are as follows; LGS 9:15 am, LSM 9:30 am and HCS 9:40 am.
- If there is **NO** delay for Region 10, but **THERE IS** a delay for Bristol Tech., then transportation will run on Region 10's time schedule. Students will follow Region 10's schedule.
- If there is an unscheduled, early release for Region 10, the out of district schools will be contacted by the bus company to release Harwinton and Burlington students for early pick up based on Region 10's early release schedule.
- If the out of district schools have an early release and Region 10 does not, then students will be picked up based on the out of district schools' schedules and brought to their *alternate* bus stops.
- If Region 10 has a scheduled day off and your out of district school does not, buses will run on that schools' schedule from *centralized* bus stops in the morning and *alternate* bus stops in the afternoon. Bristol Tech. students will be dropped off at the stop they are picked up from.