

Informational Update: 2020-2021 Transportation

Notification from: **Public Schools of Northborough & Southborough**

September 11, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

With the unique start of the 2020-2021 school-year rapidly approaching, we would like to share with families a few transportation updates. First, since the March closure, we have been in frequent contact with our bus contractor, North Reading Transportation (NRT). NRT has been extremely cooperative as we prepare for the reopening of school.

As part of the districts' transportation contract with NRT, it requires its bus drivers to drive their routes before the start of the school year. NRT has assured that this has or will take place. Additionally, on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, the District leadership team and building principals met with NRT bus drivers to welcome them, review safety protocols, and share expectations. The District's Transportation Department will review the drivers' feedback and will implement many of its recommendations.

When will the bus routes be posted?

Today, September 11, 2020, at 5:00 PM the District will publish the routes to the Transportation webpage on the District website www.nsboro.k12.ma.us/transportation. We're asking parent(s)/guardian(s) to review the routes and communicate any concerns by using the Transportation Request Form found on the transportation website.

Bus Routes -

- Each route will be posted by bus tier. Bus tier refers to the schools that travel together at the same time.
- Each route has a start time. We are unsure when the individual stop times will be. This may be something we can update after we get started. We apologize for not including more detail, but we are predicting the bus will be consistent each day.
- Each bus stop is listed. Please search the bus routes for the stop that is closest to your home.

How do I know which bus my student rides?

After reviewing the routes, if you are uncertain about your student's bus or bus stop, you can contact the school's main office after **Wednesday, September 16, 2020**. We are still fine-tuning lists of cohorts and keeping an eye on capacity limitations. This is still a moving target as some families are making adjustments to their reopening plans.

Do I need to register for the bus?

Yes, families need to register for bus transportation by using the Bus Registration Form on the transportation website. If you no longer need transportation services, please email Jean Pinto directly at: jpinto@nsboro.k12.ma.us.

When will the requested changes to the routes be made?

All routes will be frozen until Friday, October 19, 2020. No changes will be made to the routes **unless it's to address a safety concern**. All of the requested changes will be reviewed and implemented on Monday, October 19, 2020. The purpose of freezing the routes is to provide time for the drivers to learn their routes.

What are the guidelines for bus transportation health and safety during the reopening?

Information related to health and safety can be found on the District's Reopening Website ([District's Reopening Website](#)) and the Transportation Reopening Plan ([Transportation Reopening Plan](#)). This plan includes a safety video for families to watch that was prepared by NRT.

Future Improvements: The District will be piloting the "Here Comes The Bus" application on a small scale as a proof of concept. Three routes will be selected, one from each district to set up the app. From this small-scale pilot, the District will determine if it's feasible to move forward on a larger scale. More information will be shared about this pilot shortly.

Lastly, it's important to remind families and guardians that a successful transportation operation requires a strong partnership between families, the District, and the bus contractor. At the start of any school year, it is expected that minor changes and adjustments will need to be made as we route over 4,000 students. We appreciate your partnership and patience.

Sincerely,

Keith Lavoie, Director of Operations
Jean Pinto, Transportation Coordinator