

### **1. Who is entitled to bus transportation free of charge in Winthrop?**

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 68, students in grades K-6 who reside more than 2.0 miles walking distance to their neighborhood school are entitled to free transportation. Special education transportation services are separate from regular bus transportation and are not affected.

### **2. Must I apply if my child is eligible for free transportation?**

Yes, you will be contacted by your child's school to inform you that you are eligible for transportation based on residing more than 2 miles from their assigned school. A Transportation Registration must be completed to accept and receive access to transportation.

### **3. How is the distance from school determined for all students?**

It is measured by using the shortest walking route from the public way in front of a student's home to the nearest entrance way of the school. The Winthrop Public Schools Information System has calculated these distances.

### **4. May a student not eligible for busing ride home with a friend?**

No, only eligible and registered students will be allowed access to the bus.

**5. If my child is eligible for transportation is it mandatory to ride both ways (to and from school)?**

No, one way transportation is an option but it must be determined when filling out the Transportation Registration form.

**6. How do I fill access Transportation Registration forms?**

All parents/guardians of students in grades K-6 who are eligible will be contacted by August 15<sup>th</sup>. An appointment to review and complete the Registration form and receive a Bus Pass (mandatory to board) will be scheduled upon contact.

**7. Will bus passes be checked?**

Passes will be checked regularly upon boarding.

**8. What is the transportation policy regarding Kindergarten and 1st grade drop off?**

Kindergarten and 1st graders students will be dropped off at their assigned bus stops. If a parent or guardian is not at the bus stop to meet the kindergartner, the driver will radio the Central Office and keep the child on the bus. The parent or emergency contact will be contacted by phone to notify them of the need to meet the bus. If no one can be reached, the child will be returned to the School or Central office until parent can be contacted. Repeated occurrences will result in the forfeiture of transportation privileges.

**9. Must my child carry the bus pass every day?**

Yes. All students should have their passes with them every school day. Please note that each school has an up-to-date list of students who have been issued bus passes. This list will confirm a student's eligibility to ride. Abuse of the bus pass system or violation of the school system's rules of behavior will result in disciplinary action including suspension of transportation privileges.

**10. What if I leave something on the bus?**

Although the WPS is not responsible for items left on the bus, we do have a lost and found and try to return any left items to the rightful owner. Please contact your child's school directly if there is anything left on the bus.