



Winthrop Public Schools

One Metcalf Square
Town Hall

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Lisa A. Howard, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

August 6, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that the Winthrop Public Schools will no longer be offering a fee-based School Bus Transportation service to students in grades K-12. There will be School Bus service **only** for students in **grades K-6** who reside beyond 2 miles from the school in which they are attending. Eligibility is determined by the Transportation Coordinator using Google walk. We will be contacting all parents/guardians of students who are eligible for this service directly to provide them with the information necessary to register for the service and understand the pick-up and drop off location.

We are aware that this change will be inconvenient for those who have relied on using the School Bus service in the past. In anticipation of this transition, we have spent time working with each school to understand the impact of this change and have adjusted the start and end time at the Gorman Fort Banks School, added a CharlieCard (S-Card) reduced fare option for our Middle and High School students and reviewed potential traffic impact with the Winthrop Police and Fire departments. Additionally, we are adjusting and increasing the use of crossing guards and will continue to revisit traffic patterns throughout the school year.

The Town of Winthrop does have a local MBTA bus service that is available to all students and adults and has several pick-up locations throughout the community as well as drop off locations close to all our schools. Winthrop Public Schools has enrolled in the MBTA Student Pass Program and can provide students in the Middle and High School schools with a Charlie S-Card that will allow them to access the local MBTA at a reduced student fee of \$0.85 per ride. Below please find the links to the local MBTA bus schedules and routes for bus # 713 & # 714 and directions on how to access the Charlie S-Card for Middle and High School students.

<https://www.mbta.com/schedules/712/line>

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If your child would like to take part in the MBTA reduced fare program, please have them pick up a Charlie Card (S-Card) at the Middle or High School beginning August 28 between the hours of 8:00am-2:00pm. Once the card is obtained, value can be added to it at the nearest MBTA station.

MBTA Charlie Card School Contacts:

Middle School students: Mr. Curley, Principal

High School students: Ms. Indrisano, Guidance Office Winthrop High School

MBTA Reduced Fare Student Program Detail

- The Student Program provides students with reduced rate passes to travel on the Subway at a 'Pay As You Go' 50% reduced rate.
- They are for students in Middle or High School ONLY and must be issued by a participating school.
- The school will issue students the student stored value Charlie Cards (S-Card).
- Students/parent must go to an MBTA station to use the fare vending machine to add money on to their card.
- All Student Charlie Cards are assigned through your school.

Additional information regarding the MBTA Reduced Fare Student Program can be found at: <https://www.mbta.com/fares/reduced/student-charliecards>

Winthrop Public Schools appreciates your understanding of this change of service. If you have questions or concerns regarding this information, please reach out to us via email at lhoward@winthrop.k12.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Howard

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Superintendent of Schools