



School District of the Chathams

Busing Guidelines

In accordance with state law, *N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1*, all public elementary school students (grades K-8) who live *more than* two miles from their school and all public secondary school students (grades 9-12) who live *more than* two-and-a-half miles from their school are entitled to transportation. These students are said to live "remote from school." Measurement is made by the shortest distance along public roadways or walkways between the entrance to the student's home and the nearest public entrance of the school building. This measurement is for eligibility purposes only and is not necessarily the travel path to or from school.

Boards of education are **not** required by law to provide busing for students who live less than remote from school even for safety reasons.

The School District of the Chathams offers transportation called Subscription Busing for students who reside less than remote distance from school for a yearly fee. It is offered for Chatham High School, Chatham Middle School, Southern Boulevard School, Lafayette School and the Green Village area of Washington School. A new application must be filled out every spring for the next school year. Priority seats go to those who live remote from school, and remaining seats are made available to subscription riders on a previously mandated route. If a bus is full, and a student moves into the district and lives remote from school, the last subscription rider added will be removed and the pro-rated dollar amount will be returned.

Every effort is made to accommodate all pupils who desire subscription busing, however, with enrollment increases each year, many routes are at or near capacity and a seat may not be available. As a result, the number of applications received will often exceed the number of seats available and will be denied, or placed on a waiting list.

PLEASE NOTE:

- It is preferable that there is at least one parent per stop for children in grades 2 through 3 and **MANDATORY** that there is a parent present for Kindergarteners and 1st graders.
- If a child misses their stop, and/or, no parent is present, the bus will try to make a trip around the block (IF possible) and then the child will be taken back to their school and parents will be notified to pick their child up at the school.

- If your child plans on not riding the bus, without giving notice, we will assume that your child is no longer taking the bus and may alter the bus route times and stops accordingly. If your child chooses to start riding again, please email 3 days in advance, so the driver will be notified to expect your child. (This reduces confusion and the possibility your child may miss the bus, especially if they are the only student at the stop).
- Students are only allowed on the bus they have been assigned to. If a student is found on an incorrect bus, they will be removed and the parents will be called to pick them up. If there is a repeat occurrence, there will be a suspension of transportation privileges.
- Please note timings on routing cards are “approximate” and do vary depending on traffic, weather, number of students riding that day, etc.

For any additional questions or concerns, please contact

Transportation at

Transportation@chatham-nj.org

973-457-2526