



Transportation Public Forum Hopkinton Public Schools

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Thursday, December 5th, 2013

Purpose of tonight's meeting

- Provide opportunity for public comment regarding proposed changes to the transportation policy
- Exchange of ideas

Safety

- Our responsibility begins when your child boards the bus and ends when they disembark at the drop off location

Challenges presented by the current system

- Amount of time lost from instruction in safely guiding students to the appropriate bus line each day.
- Additional time needed to dismiss students at Center School (18 hr per year per child):
 - 20x5 for 2 weeks = 200 min
 - 10x5 for 2 weeks = 100 min
 - 5x5 for 36 weeks = 800 min

- **Only 10% of all K-5 students currently have inconsistent daily transportation plans.**
- We are proposing a change that would require consistent pick-up and drop-off locations.

Safety

- Once a child is directed to their bus line, by confusion, distraction, or choice, a student can enter a different bus line and there are no checks at this point
- In the current system, the bus drivers and TA's do not recognize who should or should not be riding the bus on a given day

Safety

- The student is reassured when they are greeted by the same driver every day
- Drivers recognize their riders and are quick to re-direct an unfamiliar student

Bus stop switching

- Our responsibility begins when your child boards the bus and ends when they disembark at the drop off location.
- Changing your child's drop off location, can result in undue stress and potential confusion for your child.

Bus stop switching

- In addition, drivers can become distracted with last minute changes to their drop-off routine.

Bus application deadline

- In response to concerns voiced regarding a lack of flexibility, we are proposing the following:
 - May 1 New deadline
 - May 2-15 Late fee applied, guaranteed seat and bus pass prior to start of school

Bus application deadline

- May 16 (Freeze data base)
- As a result, the penalties shall include
 - the late fee
 - Student may not be assigned to a bus for the first two weeks of school (delayed pass)
 - Potential alternative bus at closest stop
 - No new stops added