

## **Subscription Busing FAQs**

### **Will crossing guards be provided at busy intersections?**

Walking routes were reviewed in collaboration with the Hillsborough Township Police Department. It is not necessary to have a crossing guard at controlled intersections, however, as this is a change for the students and the community, the police department will monitor those intersections to ensure the safety of the children.

### **How did the district decide on the \$1,000 cost?**

The \$1,000 cost is what the Board believes to likely be the maximum per pupil cost to provide the transportation; it could be less, depending upon bids received and the number of students who participate.

### **I am not sure if my child(ren) qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch for the school year, as the application is not due until October 1. Therefore, how will I submit a new one with the interest form?**

Financial hardship shall not be a limiting factor for participation in subscription busing. Under provisions of this subscription busing program, students who qualify for free or reduced lunches may be eligible for a waiver of the busing fee, pending submission and approval of a current year free or reduced lunch application.

Please select "N/A - Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch" on the Subscription Busing Registration Form if: (a) you have previously qualified and believe that you continue to qualify, or (b) if you are submitting an application for Free/Reduced Lunch for the first time (in that case, you will need to submit the Free/Reduced Lunch application before or at the same time as your application for subscription busing). A review of the Free and Reduced Lunch application will take place once submitted to determine continued eligibility and a possible waiver of the busing fee.

### **It is easier for my child(ren) to bike to school. Is this option available to students?**

If biking to school is an option for your child(ren), please feel free to allow them to do so. Bike racks are available for students to utilize. Bike locks will not be provided, so be sure your child(ren) have his/her own.

### **Will subscription busing generate revenue to the district and if so, where will the money be allocated?**

Subscription busing is not a revenue generating venture for the school district. In fact, it is unlawful for districts to collect more money than it actually costs to run the bus route. Therefore, the final cost will be dependent upon the number of students interested in utilizing this service and the actual cost of the bus run.

### **Why aren't the costs of school buses and transportation included in my taxes?**

The cost of transporting students to school who do not live remotely, as that term is defined in the law (see below), is not included in the money received by the school district from taxes paid to the municipality.

In accordance with state law, students in grades K-8 who live less than two (2) miles from their school and students in grades 9-12 who live less than two-and-one-half miles (2.5) miles from their school are not considered "remote" and school districts are not required to transport them to school. Busing provided within these limits is referred to as "courtesy" busing.

More information regarding New Jersey code governing Student Transportation (N.J.A.C. 6A:27, can be found by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/code/current/title6a/chap27.pdf>

### **I live less than two (2) miles from the middle school and less than two-and-one-half miles (2.5) miles from the high school but did not receive an email about subscription busing. What do I do?**

If you live less than two (2) miles from the middle school and less than two-and-one-half miles (2.5) miles from the high school but did not receive an email about subscription busing, please reach out to the Transportation Department at 908-431-6600 (prompt 6) or [subscriptionbusing@https.us](mailto:subscriptionbusing@https.us). It may be that your route may be deemed a hazardous route thereby requiring that the district transport your child(ren) to school.

### **Does the district have an approved policy about transportation?**

Policy 8600: *Transportation* may be found on the district website or at the following link: <https://www.https.us/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=1976699>