

## **NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING SUBSCRIPTION BUSING**

The North Caldwell Board of Education has adopted a subscription busing program. Under this program, children who live more than two miles from their school will continue to be bused without charge and children who live two miles or less from their school will be required to pay a subsidized cost to receive busing. This notice will provide you with some answers to frequently asked questions regarding the program.

### **Can I subscribe for busing even if my children don't receive busing now?**

Yes. Subscription busing will be available to all children, even those who do not currently receive busing.

### **What is the cost of subscription busing?**

The cost is \$450 per child for the entire school year, with a maximum charge of \$1,000 per family. The charge for an a.m. or p.m. route only (see below) is \$300 per child.

### **How was the maximum charge of \$1,000 established?**

The Board identified the maximum amount of money it was comfortable asking a family to pay at the beginning of this program.

### **Can I sign up for a limited number of days or for only one way travel (i.e., either morning or afternoon busing)?**

You cannot sign up for a limited number of days. The \$450 fee purchases a seat to and from school for 5 days a week.

You can sign up for one-way travel. However, one-way travel is only available if the routes are not full with round-trip riders. Round-trip seats will be assigned and filled first. Any remaining seats will be available for those electing one-way travel. If there are more elections than seats, it will be assigned by lottery. If you elect one-way seating and are not selected in the lottery, you will not have busing.

### **How do I know my bus stop before I sign up?**

As part of the online sign up process, you will be given a list of stops and asked to select a first and second choice. We will do our best to honor the first choice.

### **What if I live more than two miles away from the school?**

Children who live more than two miles from the school they attend will continue to be bused, without charge, as required by law. You will be notified in May whether you are two miles away and will be automatically assigned to a bus route.

**How do you determine if I live more than 2 miles from the school?**

The 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 to the school building. This measurement is for eligibility purposes and may not necessarily be the travel path to and from school.

**If I don't sign up by June 15, can I sign up later in the year?**

No. In order to properly and efficiently assign routes and allocate buses, we must know in advance who will be using the program. Accordingly, this will be the only opportunity to sign up for the 2018-2019 plan year.

**How will the bus driver know who subscribed and who did not?**

In August, bus passes will be mailed to those who subscribed for busing. Since bus driver absences are not uncommon, children should have the bus pass with them each day.

**What if I have to drop my child off or pick my child up at two schools?**

The Board implemented an extended release time for the convenience of parents who must pick up at both schools. A staff member is available to supervise dismissal at both Grandview and Gould Schools until 3:45 p.m., which provides sufficient time to get from one building to the other.

**If I don't elect subscription busing, who is responsible for my child when he or she is walking to and from school?**

You are responsible for your child getting to and from school in a safe manner. If you do not believe that your children have a safe walking path, you should seriously consider subscribing to busing.

**What if I can't afford it?**

A fee waiver is available for those who meet certain income requirements. The Board will utilize the Income Guidelines that are used by the National School Lunch program. If you think this may apply to you, please contact the Board office for more information regarding the documentation requirements.