

METUCHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Administrative Offices
16 Simpson Place
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

Marissa Plancher, Transportation Coordinator
mplancher@metboe.k12.nj.us

Phone (732) 321-8700 ext. 1010
Fax: (732) 321-1195

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Dear Parent/Guardian of: **2020/2021 Incoming/Returning Campbell School Students**

The pandemic and pre-existing bus driver shortage will make securing bus contracts very difficult for the 20/21 school year. We need to act now and try to secure a contract for the 20/21 school year. The state has not issued any guidance on school transportation so we have to assume social distancing will not be required. There are not enough busses in the state to allow for social distancing. School districts are required to offer bussing to elementary students who live more than 2 miles from an elementary school or 2.5 miles for high school. We offer partial subscription bussing to students who live less than 2.0 and 2.5 miles but this is not mandated by law. It is called partial subscription bussing because the parent pays part of the cost and the district pays part of the cost.

The busing fee for the 2020/2021 school year is \$250.00. If you are receiving this letter, you reside in an area of Metuchen that is eligible for subscription busing. If school is forced to be remote, no refunds will be offered.
Current state law requires contractors to be paid if school is cancelled.

Applications are due back by July 10, 2020. Seats are reserved on a first come, first served basis.

For student safety, completed bus rosters must be submitted to the bus contractor by August 3, 2020. Therefore, any registration received after July 27, 2020 will not be issued a bus pass until October 1, 2020. Please be aware your student will not have bus service in September if your registration is received after July 27, 2020.

Please take note of the following:

1. The 2020/2021 approved budget includes 9 buses for Campbell and 8 for Edgar. Seats are reserved on a first come, first served basis.
2. We cannot guarantee your child will be on the same route and picked up at the same time as last year.
3. Children in grades 1 and 2 must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian or designated adult to and from the bus stop. We highly recommend that children in grades 3 and 4 also be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian or designated adult to and from the bus stop. Parents with children in grades 5-8 should use their judgment in determining whether their child/children must be accompanied by an adult to and from the bus stop.
4. Unforeseen circumstances may cause buses to be late or even miss a stop or stops. In the past, unusually heavy traffic, road closures, utility work, inclement weather, mechanical problems and new drivers or substitute drivers are the primary cause of the delays. We communicate, on a continuous basis, with the bus company to resolve any problem. It is imperative that your family has a plan in place to deal with unforeseen circumstances regarding busing. Please be sure that your child is aware of your plan.

Please return the completed registration form, along with your check or money order, to the Metuchen Board of Education Transportation Office.

Thank you,

Marissa Plancher, Transportation Coordinator