

Bus Transportation FAQ (8/27/2020)

During this unprecedented time, Marshfield Public Schools is asking that any parent/guardian that is able to drive their child(ren) to school to please do so due to the limited capacity we are able to work with to meet COVID-19 safety guidelines as determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Q. How are the bus assignments being determined during a time when there is a significant reduction in bus capacity due to COVID-19?

A. Parents were asked to register for bus transportation by August 23, 2020 by 8pm. This information is being reviewed by the district and the bus company to assign a bus and a seat to the students that registered. In the event we cannot accommodate all of the students that registered for bus transportation, priority will be given to students in grades K-6 whose primary home address is greater than 2 miles from their home school.

Q. I missed the deadline for bus registration, what do I do?

A. Please e-mail the following information to transportation@mpsd.org to be added to our waiting list:

Student's Full Name
School Attending for FY21
Grade
AM Bus Needed – yes or no
PM Bus Needed – yes or no
Parent Name

This does not guarantee you will have bus transportation. If space allows, your child will be assigned a bus and an assigned seat.

Q. My child requires to be picked-up and/or dropped-off at more than one address during the week due to split households, parenting schedules, or child care issues. How is this being handled?

A. At this time, we are only transporting each student to the primary home address that is listed in Aspen. No alternate addresses can be considered during this time. The purpose of having one address for pick-up and drop-off is to lessen exposure to the COVID-19 virus. A single home address will allow us to assign a student to one school bus, one specified seat assignment, the same bus driver and with the same students sharing that transportation.

Q. Can my child take another bus for child care, to accommodate parenting schedules or for playdates?

A. At this time, we are unable to allow any child to take any bus other than the one they are assigned to.

Q. Where is the legal requirement for schools to provide bus transportation to their students located?

A. The Massachusetts law for school transportation can be found under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 68.

Q. What is a capacity allowed for our buses during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. Marshfield Public Schools is following the COVID-19 Guidelines that have been determined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The buses used for Marshfield Public Schools are 77-passenger capacity buses. The DESE guidance allows us to transport 25 students on each bus to allow for proper social distancing during the pandemic.

Q. Will students be assigned to the same bus and the same seat due to COVID-19?

A. Yes. The only time that a different bus may be used by the bus company is if the assigned bus is unavailable due to service issues.

Q. Will students be required to wear a mask on the bus?

A. Yes, students must enter the bus wearing a mask and leave it on during the entire ride.

Q. How are the schools going to handle the increased traffic caused by parents driving their children to school?

A. Each individual school is creating a traffic plan that will be released once we can reasonably assess the number of students that will be driven to school by a parent/guardian.

Q. Can siblings sit together?

A. Siblings will be assigned to seats together unless this creates problems with socially distant spacing capacity.

Q. Will bus monitors be added to ensure that children are following proper protocols?

A. Marshfield Public Schools is accepting applications for Bus Monitors through schoolspring.org and hopes to be able to fill these positions.

Q. How will the buses be disinfected, by whom, how often and with what products?

A. DESE cleaning and disinfecting guidelines by the drivers using an approved spray cleaner to all touchable areas in the morning and again in the afternoon. Buses will have automatic hand

sanitizer dispensers permanently installed by entry way. Maintenance will disinfect thoroughly after final routes with EPA 10324-85-88904 pump spray. Cleaning supplies will be stored in the seat behind the driver permanently. All windows will remain open throughout the trips to ensure ventilation. Masking will be enforced. Drivers will have a training session prior to beginning service.

Q. Will there still be group stops? If so, how will social distancing/masks be enforced?

A. Where it is appropriate to have group stops, there will still be group stops. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians and each student to maintain social distancing and wear a mask.

Q. I have a concern/question, who do I contact?

A. You should e-mail your question/concern to transportation@mpsd.org where it will be reviewed, forwarded to the appropriate administrator and answered.