



1251 W County Road B2  
Roseville, MN 55113

651-635-1609

June 22, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Roseville Area Schools will continue the same transportation service for the 2011-2012 school year as in previous years. You are receiving this notice because your residence is less than 2 miles from Parkview, Roseville Area High School, Roseville Area Middle School or the non-public school your secondary child attends.

### **Walking Areas for Students in Grades 7-12**

State Law (MN Statute 123B.88) requires school districts to provide free transportation to all students living two miles or more from the school they attend. Because state funding is not provided to transport students living two miles or less from school, Roseville Area Schools implemented a transportation fee for students in Grades 7-12 who live less than two miles from the school they attend. Students who live within two miles of school will have the following options:

- Walking to school
- Receiving a ride from a parent or guardian
- Driving themselves
- Car-pooling
- Paying a fee to ride the school bus (The fee will be waived for students who have a documented disability that requires bus transportation or for families meeting the qualifying income levels.)

The fee for a student to ride the bus to school will be \$200 per year. There will be a family limit of \$300 per year. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch will also qualify for free or reduced transportation fees. All bus riders must register, even those who qualify for free ridership. Families may pay for this service on a full year basis or quarterly. If you choose the quarterly payment option, payments will be due August 1, November 15, January 15, and March 15. Payments may be made with credit card, cash, or check. Payments may also be made on-line by using the payment link found at <http://www.isd623.org/trans/fee-based.cfm>. **The first fee payment due date is August 1.**

In order to ensure that student achievement remains at the center of our district mission, it is necessary to continue the transportation service levels. I do realize these adjustments do not happen without sacrifice from you and your family. I want you to know that Roseville Area Schools has reviewed many other alternatives, but we feel the transportation service fees help keep our dollars serving our students in the classroom.

If you have any questions concerning the transportation fees, please call 651-635-1609.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Thein  
Superintendent

## Frequently Asked Questions about Transportation

### **Q. To whom does this program apply?**

A. This program applies to all secondary students who live less than two miles from the school they attend, and your child was previously in the busing area. Both public and private schools are affected.

### **Q. I have younger students who ride the bus to the same school, why can't my student just ride along with them?**

A. In order to apply this fairly, we need to treat all secondary students the same, this includes the middle school and high school as well as our K-8 schools in the district, Parkview, and the non public schools.

### **Q. Why do students who live more than two miles from school receive free bus service? Wouldn't it be fairer if everyone paid for service?**

A. Schools districts are required by state law (MN 123B.88) to provide free transportation for all students who live more than two miles from their school. The district receives state funding for transportation based on the two-mile limit.

### **Q. Why does it cost more if I choose to pay my bus fee in four installments rather than one payment?**

A. The added cost is necessary to cover the district's additional bookkeeping costs for handling multiple payments.

### **Q. I drive my children to school in the morning and they take the bus only in the afternoon. Why can't I pay half the fee?**

A. We must purchase transportation services from our bus companies based on the buses used. Our costs do not go down for children who ride the bus only one way.

### **Q. Does the free/reduced cost lunch program (Educational Benefits Program) apply to transportation services?**

A. Yes. State law requires school districts to make accommodations for families who cannot afford to pay the transportation fees in the same way they do for school meals. In order to qualify for free or reduced cost bus service, you must complete the "Application for Educational Benefits" form. The "Application for Educational Benefits" form will be mailed by the Child Nutrition Department in July to every household in the district. If you believe your children are eligible for free or reduced cost meals and you have not received the application by the end of July, please call the **Nutrition Services Office at 651-628-6442** to request a form.

### **Q. My family receives free bus service because we are eligible for free lunch. Do I still have to apply for bus service?**

A. Yes. You must submit the application. Circle Service Option C on the form.

*Note: Depending on taxable family income, transportation fees may be tax deductible for some families. Please check with your tax advisor.*

### **Q. Can students list more than one stop?**

A. A student may have one pick up address, one drop off address and one alternate address. This allows parents to have their student ride the bus to an alternate (work) address on certain days and then ride to their home address on other days. If any of these addresses are less than two miles from school, there will be a fee. It will be the parent's responsibility to be sure the student knows which address to go to on which days. The bus drivers will not be able to maintain schedules for a student.

### **Q. How are the private schools affected by this fee process?**

A. The law requires equal treatment in transportation service for private schools. Therefore, the private schools will have the same two-mile fee policy as the public schools.