
SUBSCRIPTION BUSING

The Pennsville Township Board of Education will allow parents/guardians of children, who reside in Pennsville Township and who are not eligible for transportation to and from school under statute or current Board policy, the opportunity to pay the District to transport their children.

No family will be denied transportation because of financial hardship and shall not be excluded from participation under this policy for this reason. In determining financial hardship, the criteria shall be the same as the statewide eligibility standards established by the State Board of Education for free and reduced price meals under the Federal School Lunch Program.

Subscription busing will be offered in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.3 and 1.4. Subscription busing may not be available for all pupils depending on the availability of contracted buses (or district buses), the cost to provide the transportation service and/or the number of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that are interested in contracting for such service.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.3, the Board may enter into a contract (and/or use its own bus(es) to provide this subscription busing to pupils with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) paying all or part of the cost, including but not limited to the cost of the contract and/or the cost of fuel, driver salaries and insurance, if district bus(es) are used. Also, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.3, the Superintendent or his/her designee will annually notify the New Jersey Department of Education that the Board will offer subscription busing for the upcoming school year.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop regulations for the implementation of this Policy.

Date: March 14, 2005

Revised: August 31, 2009

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.1 Transportation of other pupils by board

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.2 Transportation of other pupils by municipality

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.3 Contract for transportation of

	certain pupils; costs
N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.4	Determination of financial hardship
N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.5	Adoption of policy regarding transportation of students who walk along hazardous routes
N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.8	Payment by parents for transportation of certain pupils
N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1.9	Payment not required based on financial hardship
N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.1 <i>et seq.</i>	Student Transportation

Cross References:

3516	Safety
3541.1	Transportation Routes and Services
3541.31	Privately owned vehicles
3541.33	Transportation safety

REGULATIONS OF SUBSCRIPTION BUSING

1. Subscription busing is open to all students not transported due to the regulations of the State Department of Education and the Transportation Policy of the Pennsville Township Board of Education.
2. Prior to May 3 of the school year for which transportation is being requested, letters will be sent to all parents with students eligible for subscription busing to determine their interest in participation. A copy of this regulation will be included in the packet sent to the parents.
 - A. The letter shall contain the cost per pupil of the transportation for the upcoming school year. It will contain an application that must be returned with a non-refundable, 50% deposit fee per student. This amount will be applied toward the total annual transportation fee. No deposit is required if student is eligible for free or reduced lunch.
 - B. In order to be guaranteed a seat on the bus, all applications for transportation must be received by the Pennsville Township Board of Education, Transportation Office, 30 Church Street, Pennsville, NJ 08070, no later than June 15 of the year before busing will begin.
 - C. IMPORTANT - If the request is received after June 15, seating will not be guaranteed. Services will then be provided only if sufficient space is available on a first come first serve basis.
3. Once the number of interested participants is determined, routes will be formulated based upon total number of regular students to be transported to a particular school.
4. The balance of the fee for subscription busing will be due to the Pennsville Township Board of Education on or before July 17, prior to the opening of school. Bus passes will only be issued to those students who have paid for their seats on or before July 17.
5. **All fees are non-refundable. Payment for subscription busing is for the entire year and once paid is non-refundable for any reason.**
6. Transportation will only be provided to and from school at a bus stop along the routes established by the Board of Education, based upon the residence of the student being transported.
7. Eligibility for free and reduced fees for subscription busing will be determined by the same method the State Board of Education determines the eligibility standards for free and reduced price meals under the Federal School Lunch Program.
8. The Pennsville Township Board of Education will determine the eligibility for free or reduced fees for subscription busing by the eligibility list for free and reduced lunch for the year prior to the year in which subscription busing would be provided. Those eligible for reduced lunch would pay 25% of the full transportation fee.
9. Eligibility for free and reduced fees for subscription busing will only be determined once each school year per family and will not be modified during the school year despite changed circumstances of the family.
10. The Pennsville Township Board of Education will review the costs of transportation on an annual basis. After the annual review, the Pennsville Township Board of Education may modify the cost per pupil.