

John F. Doherty, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Reading Public Schools

Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow

July 10, 2017

Dear Reading Public School Families,

The FY18 Operating Budget for the Reading Public Schools was approved at the annual Town Meeting on May 4th. We are appreciative of the funding and support we receive from our community and given the fiscal constraints that our community faces, the budget that was approved reflected a minimal increase from last fiscal year. To stay within the increase, we had to make some difficult funding choices for the upcoming school year. One area that was again not funded in the operating budget was non-mandatory bus transportation for the 2017-18 school year.

Currently, we provide bussing as mandated by state law for students in grades K – 6 that live 2 or more miles away from their school. In the 2017-18 school year, we will be able to offer parent paid bussing to non-mandated riders (students who live less than two miles from their school in grades K-6 and for some students grades 7-12) along the established routes at **Killam, Coolidge, Parker, and Reading Memorial High School**. For this option to continue there will have to be enough paid ridership to cover the cost of the bus.

If you are interested, the parent paid bus will transport students to school in the morning and home at the close of school for **\$450 per student per school year with no family cap**. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer a one-way ticket for half price. Passes are non-refundable and non-transferable. Reading Public Schools offers financial assistance for those eligible for free and reduced meal benefits. The information and application can be found on our website, www.reading.k12.ma.us, after August 1st.

Any interested parent or guardian is asked to complete the attached form along with a check made payable to the "Town of Reading" and send it to the Reading Public Schools, 82 Oakland Road, Reading, MA 01867. **A 50% deposit (\$225) is requested by August 1st with the remaining balance (\$225) due by September 5th**. All payments must be received by **September 5, 2017**. We strongly urge you to procure your child's spot as soon as possible. No passes can be issued until paid in full and we will not contract for the parent paid bus until we have enough paid ridership to cover the costs.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Linda Engelson at 781-944-5800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Dowd".

Gail Dowd
Director of Finance

COOLIDGE BUS FORM

Student's Name: _____ Grade _____
(First) (Last)

Student's Name: _____ Grade _____
(First) (Last)

Address: _____

Parents Names: _____
(Parent 1) (Parent 2)

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____
(Parent 1) (Parent 2)

Work Phone: _____
(Parent 1) (Parent 2)

Email: _____
(Parent 1)

(Parent 2)

Please indicate your child's bus stop:

Approximate starting time 7:05 a.m.

- _____ Cumberland Farms
- _____ *105 Haverhill St.
- _____ *173 Haverhill St.
- _____ *673 Haverhill St.
- _____ Franklin St. at Parsons Rd.
- _____ Sanborn Lane at Mill St.
- _____ Across from 40 Sanborn Lane
- _____ Roma Lane at Lynn Village Way
- _____ Zachary Lane at Cory Lane
- _____ Corner of Fairchild Dr. at Main St.

*(Bus stops subject to change)