

Pay To Ride -- Frequently Asked Questions

For students who do not meet eligibility requirements for free transportation, the Town of Franklin affords parents an opportunity to pay for transportation. It is the ultimate responsibility of the parent to ensure that their child gets to school.

How do you calculate the distance between my home and the school?

The Franklin Public Schools uses a transportation mapping software called Routefinder Pro that calculates the distance from your home to the school.

What is the fee?

The fee for the 2015-2016 school year is \$325.00 per student with a family cap of \$975.00.

How can I pay?

The most convenient way is to [PAY ONLINE](#). You can pay with MasterCard or Discover (for a small convenience fee) or by check (without fee) by entering the routing number and account number from the bottom of your check. You can pay in full when you sign up or make 2 equal payments. **The first payment is due at sign up and second payment is due by July 13, 2015.** Enrollment forms can also be accessed online at www.franklin.k12.ma.us and choosing transportation from the left side. Print and mail with payment to the address on the form.

I can't afford to pay. Can you waive the fee?

Families with financial hardships are encouraged to complete an application for free/reduced price lunch and check the box allowing the foodservice department to share that information with us. Families eligible for free or reduced priced lunch are not required to pay for transportation.

I only need one way transportation; can I pay half the fee? The policy of the Franklin Public schools does not allow for fees to be prorated for partial years or for one-way transport. Each year we commit to a certain number of buses and a limited number of seats are available.

What is the enrollment deadline?

Students who enroll now through June 15, 2015 will be guaranteed a seat on the bus.

What if I miss the deadline?

Those students who miss this enrollment period will be placed on a waiting list and may be provided a chance to enroll their child/children on a space available basis after September 25, 2015.

Why do I have to pay this year when I haven't had to pay in the past?

In 2011, the Franklin Public Schools updated the maps in our software to remain current with added streets and to be consistent with the Town's mapping website. We have also expanded our capabilities and included parcel data to improve accuracy. With the improved maps, accuracy of distance calculations has also improved and therefore while a home might have been over 2 miles previously, it may fall just under the 2 mile limit now. Students in the few homes which are exactly 2.00 miles from the school will be required to pay.

I signed up and paid by the deadline, but now my circumstances have changed and I don't need transportation. Can I have a refund?

Refunds are only issued on a case by case basis for requests made **prior to** the start of the school year. Once the school year starts, no refunds are issued.

I only need transportation in the spring because my high school student plays a sport in the fall and winter. Can you prorate the fee?

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My senior at FHS was driving my freshman all year, but since she is out of school earlier in May, now I need transportation for my freshman. Can you prorate the fee?

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My child received a bus pass, but lost it. How can I get a replacement? There is a \$5 fee for replacement bus passes. You may bring the fee to the Transportation Department in the Municipal Building, 2nd floor, to have a replacement pass issued. Otherwise, you can send the payment to your child's school's secretary who will forward same to the Transportation Department.