



FAQs: Transportation

Which students get bus service?

Bus service will be provided only to Elementary and Middle School students until the crisis has passed. At the start of the school year, Elementary students who live more than a mile from their school, and Middle School students that live more than 1.5 miles from their school are eligible for transportation. The distances and the ridership may have to change during the course of the school year based on guidance and changing landscape of the virus. Some exceptions may be managed by the transportation department.

Why is there no bus for the High School?

State law only requires school districts to provide bus service for Kindergarten through 6th grade. Hingham Public Schools have traditionally provided bus service for K-12. HPS needed to reduce bus services due to the DESE transportation recommendations and budgets.

If your high school student needs transportation to and from school, please contact the Principal. The PTO has offered to help coordinate ride-sharing options. Also, please reach out to neighbors and have your student communicate with their friends to assist with transportation.

What is the DESE Transportation Guidance?

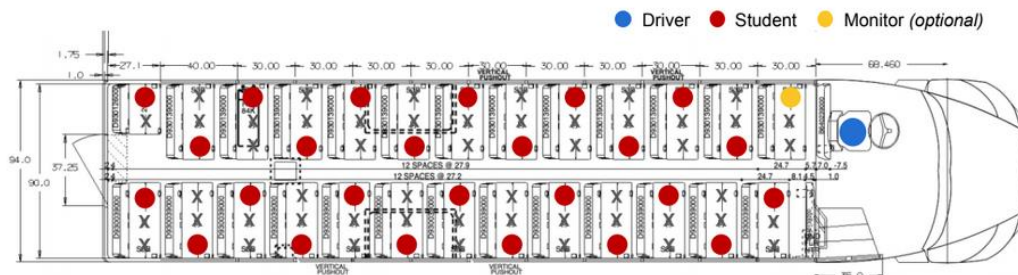
The Hingham is following [DESE Transportation recommendations](#) on our buses. All Drivers and Students are required to wear a mask when they are on the bus. The bus driver has a supply of masks if a student forgot their mask when entering the bus. Sanitizing dispensers are placed at the top step of each bus and students are required to use sanitizer when boarding. Windows will be open for fresh air circulation.

Students on Buses

Each student is assigned a seat for the entire year. One student will sit on each bench alternating one on the aisle and one next to the window with opposite positions across the aisle. Students will load the bus starting with the back seats and move forward. No food is allowed on the bus which is consistent with current policy. For the first several weeks of in-person learning, a bus monitor will assist the drivers with managing the students on the bus. Monitoring will ensure the students keep their masks on, stay in their assigned seats, minimize horse-play, ensure there is no eating on the bus, and manage other potential behavioral issues.

Seating for Hingham Public School Buses

The diagram below represents a 77-passenger bus. Configurations for other school bus models are shown in Appendix A. Districts should leave the bench immediately behind the driver's seat vacant to maintain physical distance for the driver. Districts may consider repurposing this bench for a bus monitor, health and safety supplies, or other needs.



Cleaning Protocols

The bus monitor will also use spray disinfectant after each run on all seats and high touch areas. When the bus returns to the Depot, the bus will be wiped down with soap and water. Once dry, the bus will then be disinfected. A log of the employee, date and time that he/she cleaned and disinfected the bus will be kept on the bus.

Health Protocols

In the event that a student feels sick or the driver suspects that the student is ill, the Driver will contact dispatch, who will contact the school nurse to meet the driver in front of the school to address the student.

As of October 9, 2020

Other Services

If transportation is required for food services, the driver will disinfect after each run and will be required to wear gloves, masks, and have sanitizer on each bus. After each delivery the driver must change his gloves. The same protocols are followed for all Special Education, Out of District, and private school transportation.