



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MILTON

July 2019

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE 2019-2020 “BUY A SEAT PROGRAM”

1. What is the Buy a Seat on the Bus Program?

On February 28, 2011, the Board of Education approved a new program that began with the 2011-2012 school year. The program offers families (students in 4-Year-Old Kindergarten thru Grade 12) that are not eligible for District provided transportation to and from school, an option to pay a fee for optional transportation services.

2. How do I know if I am eligible for District provided transportation?

The District Board of Education Policy follows State Statute 121.54 which is: If your residence is 2 or more miles (as driven by the most common route) from your child’s school of attendance, transportation must be provided at no cost. The exceptions are 1) if your child has an I.E.P. (Individualized Education Plan) in place that requires special transportation services or 2) if you live within an identified “unusually hazardous area” within the District boundaries. In 2012-2013 the District received approval for an Unusually Hazardous Transportation Plan (“UHP”) with the Department of Public Instruction. This plan identifies certain areas in the District that may be hazardous for students to walk to and from school. Go Riteway Transportation Group, our contractor, assisted in the development of the UHP and will be able to let you know if your residence is within the zones identified. For the two exceptions listed above, District provided transportation services is allowed at no cost.

3. What do I do if I am not sure if my residence is eligible for transportation?

You can call GO Riteway Transportation Group (“GO Riteway”) at (608) 868-4705 to inquire.

4. What if my child attends under the State’s Open Enrollment Program?

For regular education, the State Open Enrollment Program does not require transportation services. A District may provide the services for a fee upon Board of Education approval. Even if you bring your child to a common stop within the District, you would need to pay the “Buy A Seat” fee as your child is not eligible for transport based upon residency.

5. What if we live in the city of Milton and my child sometimes rides a shuttle bus?

If your residence is within the two miles from your child’s school of attendance, you will need to pay the fee for the option to ride the bus within the “Buy A Seat Program”.

6. What is the fee and what if my child needs only occasional paid transportation services? (No change in fee since program commenced in 2011-2012)

The Board of Education approved the optional fee service of:

- A. Morning (AM) only transport per child of \$75.00
- B. Afternoon (PM) only transport per child of \$75.00
- C. Both Morning (AM) and Afternoon (PM) transport per child of \$150.00

The fee is based upon ridership for the full school year. This is an optional service offered for families. The fee will not be waived nor prorated. The fee is per child. The Board of Education approved a cap of \$300.00 per family for a given school (fiscal) year. Family is defined as members living within the same residence. Families that have shared placement (divorce) and one family is eligible for transportation and one is not, will still have to pay the full price for the “Buy A Seat Program” if transportation is requested to the non-eligible home address.

7. Are payment options offered?

No. This is an optional service offered. The service is not required by State Statute or Board of Education policy. There is no provision for a fee waiver, payment plan, or reduction of fees due to income.

8. What if I provide childcare services at my residence or business?

State Statute requires District provided home to school transportation based upon the student's residence in proximity to the school of attendance. If a child attends your family/business child care, the family's residence distance to the school of attendance is the factor. You may have families that participate in your childcare services that qualify for District provided transport, as well as families that would need to pay a fee for bus services given their residence distance to the school of attendance.

9. What if I desire transport to a specific address?

On the Private Transportation Contract, you can list the address you prefer for pick up and/or drop off. GO Riteway will indicate the closest common stop to your desired stop. The Board of Education approved this program based upon no additional stops being added for non-eligible riders, nor bus routes altered due to non-eligible ridership. The District is not to incur additional expense for this optional program offered to assist families that choose to pay for the elected service.

10. What is the application process for the 2019-2020 Buy a Seat Program?

Families should complete the Private Transportation Contract for each student that transportation services are requested. The link can be located on the District website (www.milton.k12.wi.us) – go to District, then on the left-hand side, open the District Information tab and hit the “Buy a Seat Program” link. Payment in the form of a check or money order made payable to “The School District of Milton” must accompany your Private Transportation Contract. Contract and payment must be submitted together and **should not be received in the District Office prior to August 1, 2019.** Within 5 business days of the payment (in full) and contract received in the District Office, tentative approval will be telephoned to you by GO Riteway. In rare instances, denials may also need to be communicated to requesters. After the District-wide registration window ends on August 10th, GO Riteway will telephone families that are approved for the non-eligible rider transportation services when the registration process has been completed and routes established. Should a desired route be filled with eligible riders, the Director of Business Services will promptly contact affected families. Ineligible requesters will receive back their full payment made for 2019-2020. *** A completed contract & full payment received at the District office between August 1-16th, 2019 will be processed and approved riders will be guaranteed a ride starting the first day of school. Contracts and payment received in the District Office after August 16th, will be processed by September 6th in time for ridership to begin on September 10th.**

11. How will the District track who has paid?

The bus drivers will verify the students riding from a list of student names that have been approved to ride. This list is updated regularly during the school year. GO Riteway and The District work closely together in monitoring this program.

12. Will my child be guaranteed a seat on the bus for the entire 2019-2020 school year?

While we do not anticipate having to notify a family that their transportation can no longer be accommodated during the school year, the possibility does exist. Should eligible residents move into the District or routes change, families will be notified in a reasonable timeline and fees will be refunded on a quarterly basis.

13. Will we need to reapply?

Yes, each new school year will require reapplication. Information will be available on the district website (www.milton.k12.wi.us) in July for the upcoming school year.

14. Should you have questions regarding this program, please contact GO Riteway at (608) 868-4705. If your questions are not sufficiently answered, please call the District Office (Business Services) at (608) 868-9200.