

**NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING SUBSCRIPTION BUSING**

May 19, 2022

The North Caldwell Board of Education has adopted a subscription busing program. Under this program, children who live more than two miles from their school will continue to be bused without charge and children who live two miles or less from their school will be required to pay a fee to receive busing. This notice will provide you with some answers to frequently asked questions regarding the program.

**Why is the Board implementing subscription busing?**

Subscription busing is being implemented because the Board wishes to make busing available to all parents.

**Can I subscribe for busing even if my children don't receive busing now?**

Yes. Subscription busing will be available to all children, even those who do not currently receive busing.

**When will this take effect?**

This will take effect beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

**What is the cost of subscription busing?**

The cost is \$750 per child for the entire school year for a round trip. **There will not be an option to purchase one-way seats.**

**Will the cost go up every year?**

The fee will be reevaluated each year based on the current market and other factors.

**Can I sign up for a limited number of days or for only one way travel (i.e., either morning or afternoon busing)?**

As we are holding a seat for each child that subscribes, you cannot sign up for a limited number of days. The \$750 fee purchases a seat to and from school for 5 days a week.

**What are the next steps?**

In May, you will receive a Board communication providing a web link to sign up for subscription busing. This link will also be on [www.ncboe.org](http://www.ncboe.org). The deadline to enroll will be June 15, 2022. Bus routes will be created in July. In August, parents will receive bus passes by mail, along with a service contact to call or e-mail.

### **How do I know my bus stop before I sign up?**

As part of the online sign-up process, you will be given a list of stops and asked to select your top choice. Parents will not be able to choose their drop off and pick up time on the route and that routes should be completed by 4:15 pm. If you need specific timing this is not the service for you. Most pickup and drop off points are community stops and that factor must be taken into consideration when subscribing for this optional busing service.

### **Why does my pickup and drop off time fluctuate?**

Buses start at 7:50 am and may and may fluctuate on any given day. Please plan accordingly. A route can be shorter/longer if fewer/greater number of children are riding on a certain day. Traffic, street closures, and roadwork projects can all lengthen or shorten the bus schedules.

### **What if I live more than two miles away from the school?**

Children who live more than two miles from the school they attend will continue to be bused, without charge, as required by law. You will be notified in May whether you are two miles away and will be automatically assigned to a bus route.

### **How do you determine if I live more than 2 miles from the school?**

The district engaged Schwanewede/Hals engineering firm to provide the proper qualification of all residences in town. This ensures the district knows which residences are entitled to free state mandated busing. This list will be posted on the [www.ncboe.org](http://www.ncboe.org) website so that each family can look up their address and see if they qualify. This measurement is for eligibility purposes and may not necessarily be the travel path to and from school.

### **Will there be any service improvements?**

The bus co-op the District contracts with will provide a single point of contact so that if you do have busing issues, you do not need to go through the school offices or multiple points of contact in order to have your needs addressed. However, in the event your issue is not addressed in 48 hours, please contact the business office.

### **If I don't sign up by June 15, can I sign up later in the year?**

No. In order to properly and efficiently assign routes and allocate buses, we must know in advance who will be using the program. Accordingly, this will be the only opportunity to sign up for the 2022-2023 school year.

### **How will the bus driver know who subscribed and who did not?**

In August, bus passes will be mailed to those who subscribed for busing. Since bus driver absences are not uncommon, children should have the bus pass with them each day.

**What if I have to drop my child off or pick my child up at two schools?**

Last year, the Board implemented an extended-release time for the convenience of parents who must pick up at both schools. A staff member is available to supervise dismissal at both Grandview and Gould Schools until 3:45 p.m., which provides sufficient time to get from one building to the other.

**If I don't elect subscription busing, who is responsible for my child when he or she is walking to and from school?**

You are responsible for your child getting to and from school in a safe manner. If you do not believe that your children have a safe walking path, you should seriously consider subscribing to busing.

**What if I can't afford it?**

A fee waiver is available for those who meet certain income requirements. The Board will utilize the Income Guidelines that are used by the National School Lunch program. If you think this may apply to you, please contact the Board office for more information regarding the documentation requirements.