

**BHS South Brookline Optional School Bus Service**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
Last Updated 7/27/2018

**Who is eligible for service?**

Residents of the Baker and Heath School zones attending BHS are invited to participate in a fee based transportation service to and from BHS. Participation will be first come first serve from a general invitation to participate. Should PSB receive more requests than there are seats available for a particular time slot, we will have lottery to determine placement. The lottery will be conducted and families notified as the close of the lottery. One's presence at the lottery is not required or advantageous.

**What is the fee for this service? Is it roundtrip?**

\$400 per student. The fee guarantees a seat on a school bus to and from school at a prescribed time.

**Can I pay a reduced fee and have my child ride the bus in the morning only?**

We cannot reserve a seat for the morning only at a reduced fee.

**Who approved the \$400 fee?**

The program was funded through the May 2018 Override vote. The School Committee approved the fee June 19, 2018.

**What is the cost share between the taxpayer and the fee payer for this service?**

The expected/budgeted cost share is about 55% taxpayer and 45% fee payer.

**Is there Financial Assistance for this program?**

Yes, please go to <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/Page/2210>

**Will the AM Courtesy bus operate for 2018-19 school year?**

No, The first Q&A posted was mistaken with a yes, response. Apologies to all families inconvenienced by the change in this answer. Please see next question.

**Why is there no longer an AM Courtesy bus for 2018-19 school year?**

The new expanded transportation services for South Brookline High School Students does not continue the AM courtesy bus. The courtesy bus only provided 110 seats for BHS students. One bus with 55 seats for Baker students at one stop. One Bus with 55 seats for Baker/Heath School zone making 6 stops. No afternoon transportation was provided. Currently, there are over 300 BHS students who live in the Baker and Heath school zones. The Town's subsidy for the expanded transportation service includes the use of the existing capacity, plus additional taxpayer funds to expand the routes from two am routes to four routes in the morning and four routes in the afternoon. In addition, the expansion of service guarantees each student a seat to and from school and at a stop that is convenient (within 0.34 miles radius) of their home.

### **Will the MBTA (51) Bus operate for BHS departure next school year?**

The MBTA determines if they will provide this service or not. Space is limited on this bus as well and complaints about consistency regarding departure time and evening routes have been raised. You may call the MBTA customer support line at 617-222-3200.

### **What are the times my child can take the bus?**

The pickup and drop off times will be determined after registration is closed and we know how many students will be riding the bus. Bus stops are expected to cover those living in approximately a 0.34 mile radius or less. There are two arrival times and two dismissal times for this program.

Early AM Arrival - 7:15-7:20 AM (before Z Block)

AM arrival – bus drops off a few minutes before school begins

Regular Departure – Buses Depart at 3:05 PM

Late PM Departure – 4:05 PM

### **Is there an option to purchase AM or PM only service at a reduced price?**

No, for 2018-19, the program is built to provide only to and from school transportation.

### **How many buses will there be for south Brookline?**

There will be two dedicated buses, with each bus making two runs for the arrival and two departure runs at the times described above.

### **Why do the buses make two trips?**

High School student schedules are dynamic. The arrival and departure times of high school students warranted a two run option. In addition, it is most cost effective to operate as many runs as possible with the same bus during the hours it has been contracted.

### **Will there be a later bus, one that runs after 5 PM, to south Brookline?**

At this time, the 4:05 PM bus will be the last bus run from BHS to South Brookline.

### **When will I find out if I get my requested arrival and departure preferences?**

Email notification to families will occur on or around August 16.

### **Can families attend the lottery and will we be notified?**

Should PSB receive more requests than there are seats available for a particular time slot, we will have lottery to determine placement. The lottery will be conducted and families notified as the close of the lottery. Those registered for bus service are welcome to attend. However, one's presence at the lottery is not required or advantageous. The district will notify families the next day of the results of the lottery. The date of the lottery has not been set. A date will be set once its known if a lottery is required.

### **Will my child be able to change the arrival or departure runs as needed?**

No. As of right now, we do not anticipate being able to manage changes due to the many personal schedules of various BHS students from one day to the next. The bus driver is not expected to manage day-by-day changes either. This is not an MBTA service. This is a restricted public school use service.

### **At what point can I request a refund?**

No refund will be issued unless the student un-enrolls prior to the start of the school year. Once you register for fee-based transportation, you have agreed to pay the full cost of the seat for a full year, regardless of how often you choose to use this service.

### **Can I purchase a bus pass later in the year?**

Students may opt to purchase a pass later in the year, provided space is available on the bus, and in most cases, will be required to pay the full dollar amount. Pro-rated bus fee only occurs after April 1.

### **What if my child does not get a seat on either bus, will an additional bus be added?**

No additional bus will be added unless there are town and fee payer funds available to pay the full cost.

#### **Will there be a wait list?**

We will keep waitlist for any students registered that did not get placed on the bus. If your child is not assigned to the bus, PSB will refund the payment. If a seat becomes available, payment in full is required to reserve and guarantee the seat.

#### **Or will I get a refund?**

Yes, if we are unable to assign your child to a bus, PSB will refund your payment.

### **What if I do not sign my child up for the bus?**

The bus fee is optional. Parents are responsible for getting their students to and from school. Neighborhood car pools, walking, drop off, MBTA and the fee based bus are how BHS students from South Brookline can travel to BHS.

### **How will students be identified to ride the bus?**

Students will be given a color coded bus pass to show the driver when entering the bus. Bus drivers will also have list of stops and students assigned at each stop.

**What makes you believe people want this service and are willing to pay \$400 per student for it?**

BHS Survey Data – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-HLJFGSDR8/>

Elementary Survey Data - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-FSVSQSDR8/>

Transportation Board and Public Transportation Advisory Council [letters of support](#) for creating this program are linked on the PSB Transportation page.

**Who do I contact if I have trouble registering online with MySchoolBucks?**

You can call the parent support line at 855.832.5226.

You can email the [parentsupport@myschoolbucks.com](mailto:parentsupport@myschoolbucks.com)

**May I ask the driver to change the location of my bus stop?**

No, all questions related to scheduled bus stops must be directed to the Transportation Coordinator at 617-730-2452

**Will more information be added to this Q&A?**

Yes, please check and see if the date at the top has changed since 7/27/18.