



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District
Superintendent's Office
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Acton, MA 01720
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Glenn A. Brand, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

June 29, 2015

Dear AB Elementary Families,

At their meeting on June 25th, the School Committee voted to change our elementary bus passing policy, effective one year from now, for the 2016-2017 school year. They were also in support of the revised procedures that my staff and I have put in place for the new 2015-2016 school year.

The district has had in place a policy allowing elementary aged children to "bus-pass" to bus stops and locations other than their home residential stop. These alternative bus stops have included daycare providers, local businesses and organizations providing a wide-variety of clubs and activities. While bus stops to locations other than a child's home stop exceed the primary obligation of the district in the transportation of our students, it is recognized that allowing this opportunity is a great benefit to many of our families for both enrichment as well as after school care. However, over time, with a rise in requests and students using this system, the ramifications of the overall management of this system have become of growing concern.

Earlier this year the administration raised concerns which were shared with the School Committee regarding this policy and procedures. Central to these concerns were student safety, district liability, and the continual growing expectations from community members over adding more and more non-essential bus stops among other issues. The Policy Sub Committee reviewed this issue and proposed a revised policy at their meeting on 6/11/15. This proposed revision effectively restricted the issuance of bus passes for only students attending licensed daycare providers and/or residential stops that include signed permission for students to attend ahead of time.

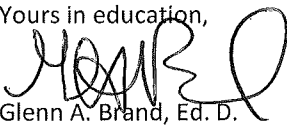
There has been considerable feedback and public comments shared with both the School Committee and myself regarding this topic over the past month. I know I speak for everyone when I say that it is all very much appreciated.

The Committee agreed with my recommendation and voted to approve the proposed policy, to be effective in one year for the 2016-2017 school year. Until that time, the current policy remains in place. The procedures, however, will begin this year (2015-2016). (The School Committee votes only on policy, while the Administration sets the procedures.)

The current and 2016-2017 policies, as well as the new procedures, are attached and posted at <http://www.abschools.org/school-committee/policies/section-e>

I understand that this is a change to the service that many of our families have come to rely on and benefit from over the years. Please know that these decisions have been made very thoughtfully and include at their core a commitment to the ability of our district to safely, effectively and efficiently transport our students. Questions may be addressed to your school office or the Transportation department at 978-264-3328 or 3329, or permbuspass@abschools.org.

Yours in education,


Glenn A. Brand, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Our Mission is to prepare all students to attain their full potential as life-long learners, critical thinkers, and productive citizens of our diverse community and global society.