



EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT #15 TRANSPORTATION

Craig Christensen
Program Director

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Includes Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, and Woodway

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As a result of the loss in state funding for schools, the Edmonds School District has been forced to make significant reductions to create a balanced budget for the 2009-10 school year. Many of these reductions are to student transportation because roughly half of those costs are not reimbursed by the state. For this reason, the district will no longer be able to provide bus service to your neighborhood when school starts in September. We regret that we have to reduce this level of service.

You live within a one-mile radius of your student's school, which is recognized by the state as a *no-bus-service zone*. As such, the district receives no funding for transporting your student(s). In the past, the district was able to afford to transport your student(s) to school. In a time when we need every available operational dollar for classroom programs, the district must focus transportation services on state-funded bus service, which is for those students who live farther than a radius mile from their school.

This change in transportation service will free up approximately \$500,000 annually that can be used to support students in the classroom. You are probably aware of some of the more drastic cuts that neighboring school districts have planned for next year, such as eliminating librarians and counselors. By reducing the budget allocation in transportation services, we can protect the money for our classrooms and focus it where it counts--on student learning. For details about the district's financial outlook, please go to the district web site at www.edmonds.wednet.edu.

Elimination of bus service to your neighborhood means that you may drive your student(s) to school, your student(s) may walk to school, or your student(s) may walk outside the one-radius mile to a district bus stop to access school bus transportation. Already, more than 10,000 students across the district, from kindergartners to high school students, walk to school. We want to make sure you and your student(s) are prepared for this change when we start the new school year. We encourage you to take the time this summer to examine the best option and route to school for your student(s). Whichever means of transport you choose, commencing with the 2009-2010 school year, your student's safe passage to school will be your responsibility.

We recognize that this change may be difficult for you and your family and encourage you to contact the transportation department at 425-431-1400 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Craig Christensen
Transportation Director
Edmonds School District

• OUR MISSION •

To ADVOCATE for all students by PROVIDING a learning environment which EMPOWERS students, staff and the community to MAXIMIZE their personal, creative and academic potential in order to BECOME lifelong learners and responsible world citizens.