




STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

November 25, 2009

TO: Parents/Guardians of School Bus Riders
FROM: 
Randolph G. Moore, Assistant Superintendent
SUBJECT: School Bus Policy Changes (does not apply to curb-to-curb services)

This is a follow-up to my memorandum of the same title dated November 16, 2009.

1) This is to reconfirm that the **distance** a student in Grades 6-12 must reside from school in order to qualify for public school bus service will be increased from 1 mile to 1.5 miles effective the first school day of the upcoming second semester.

Schools with students in grades 6-12 will be issued maps showing the new 1.5 mile walk-out distance, and school personnel will not be permitted to sell or provide bus passes to students in grades 6-12 who live within 1.5 miles of school. The maps will be available on the DOE website at <http://www.doe.k12.hi.us> for viewing. Click the "school bus" icon to find the map for your school.

An exemption from the minimum qualifying distance may be granted by the Superintendent on a year to year basis if an exemption is necessary for the health and safety of students. Applications (Form ST-27) are available at your child's school office.

Current bus riders in grades 6-12 who already purchased an annual bus pass but who will no longer be eligible for bus service come January 2010 because of this rule change will be eligible to receive a refund on the unused portion of their bus pass, including the unused portions due to teacher furloughs. However, they must surrender their annual bus pass to the school office in order to receive the refund. School officials will submit a completed refund request form to our Student Transportation Officers, and a check for the refund amount will be mailed to you.

Students not affected by this rule change may see their bus schedules adjusted as a means of accommodating this sudden shift in ridership. We will notify all affected students and parents in writing once such changes, if any, are identified.

2) The **student bus fare** will increase effective the second semester of the current school year. Please contact your child's school office for information on Third (3rd) quarter bus pass types, prices and payment options.

Students who already purchased an annual bus pass for the 2009-2010 school year will not be charged the increased bus fare for the second semester. However, they will also not be eligible for refunds due to furlough days that occurred in the second quarter or any additional furlough days that may occur in the second semester.

One-Way Bus Coupons will continue to be sold in sheets of 10 at \$7.50 per sheet (\$6.50 per sheet for Maui District schools). One-Way Bus Coupons already purchased will continue to be valid to the end of the current school year without an additional charge.

3) Effective the end of the current semester, we will **discontinue** public school bussing services for high school students that reside along select Oahu island bus routes where City bussing services are available.

If your child is on one of these routes, he or she will receive a notice from the bus driver indicating that the route will be discontinued. Affected students who already purchased an annual school bus pass will be eligible to receive a refund of the unused portion of their bus pass, including the unused portions due to teacher furloughs. However, they must surrender their annual bus pass to the school office in order to receive the refund. School officials will submit a completed refund request form to our Student Transportation Officers, and a check for the refund amount will be mailed to you.

Students affected by this rule change who qualified for free school bus service will receive a free City bus pass replacement. However, they must surrender their free bus pass to the school office in order to receive a replacement pass. School officials will then submit a completed DOE Mass Transit School Transportation Subsidy Application (Form ST-1) to the STSB Honolulu Office along with the surrendered pass. The replacement free City bus pass will be sent to the school office for issuance to the student.

Students who wish to purchase a monthly youth City bus pass may do so at all Foodland, Times, and 7-Eleven stores on Oahu and at other locations listed at <http://www.thebus.org/Fare/youthFare.asp>. Monthly passes are \$25. Annual passes for calendar year 2010 are \$275 and can be purchased at the Kalihi Transit Center at 811 Middle Street in Honolulu.

4) Students who purchased a **second quarter bus pass** of any kind are eligible to receive a refund for the seven scheduled furlough days in the quarter (unless the pass was withdrawn prior to the conclusion of all seven furlough days, or if one or more of the scheduled furlough days are cancelled). Please contact your child's school office for information on how to apply for your refund.

We continue to appreciate your patience and understanding throughout this period.

Please feel free to contact your child's school office if you have any specific questions or concerns. You may also contact the DOE District Student Transportation Office at these locations:

Oahu	Honolulu and Windward	235-9181
	Leeward	677-6684
	Central	622-0537
	Main Office	586-0170
Hawaii	East	974-6411
	West	776-7726
Kauai		241-7120
Molokai		1-800-468-4644 ext 48025 ext 252
Maui		984-8025 ext 252

RGM/jk