

## 2010-2011 School Bus Information

Because of State budget cuts and to ensure that the cost of bus transportation does not reduce the educational funds available for all students in the District, the School Board will be asked to take action to eliminate all regular education home-to-school bus transportation for next year. This matter is scheduled for consideration at their regularly scheduled School Board Meeting Monday night, May 17, at 6:00 pm at Morning Creek Elementary School.

However, the Board will also be considering an option to avoid the elimination of busing. The option would be to continue service if 85% of the parents of current transportation riders are willing to pay a fee increase of \$136 for an annual bus pass, raising the fee to \$575. While we regret having to take such a drastic increase in the fees for busing, we hope this will allow us to continue to support those District students who rely most heavily on the support.

We still believe that school bus transportation is the safest form of ground transportation in North America, and that even at \$575 for an annual round trip bus pass, it is still the best deal in town. Based upon 175 instructional days for the 2010-11 school year, this equates to only \$1.64 per ride/\$3.29 per day. At today's minimum wage you would be losing money if you invested only 12 minutes of your time driving your child to school, and that is without computing the cost of gasoline. Our annual bus pass represents a 10% savings over the price of buying two separate semester bus passes, *and if you chose to use the deferred payment plan, you can make an initial payment of \$315 with your application and the second payment of \$260 is not due until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.*

With your support, we sincerely hope to provide your student with regular education transportation support for the upcoming school year. The District has steadily attempted to reduce expenses as far from your student's classroom support as possible as we have experienced several years of reduced financial support from the state. Sadly, home-to-school transportation for regular education students is NOT a mandated support service, as such; we do not receive full funding to support it. For approximately 25 years, parents have aided in the financial off-set of our encroachment into the District's general operating fund by participating in parent fees for service for transportation. Currently, we are faced with the realization that the District may have to fully eliminate our support of regular education student transportation for the first time unless the parents of the community demonstrate their support for school busing by continuing to pay for the service. It will be essential for us to receive your application for processing no later than August 3<sup>rd</sup> so a determination can be made what level of service will be available for next year. If we do not receive a sufficient response from the community, a full refund of your monies will be made back to you. For further information, please contact School Bus Pass Coordinator, Dawn Everly, at 748-0010 ext 2061. [Click here for the Application](#)