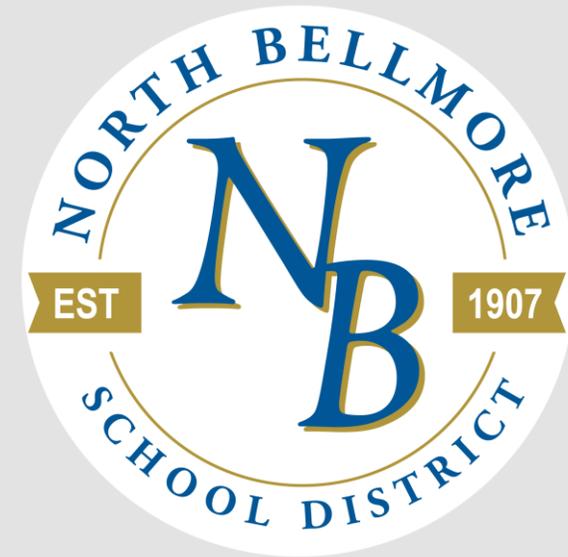


# NORTH BELLMORE UFSD Transportation Policy Overview

Board of Education Meeting  
October 12, 2023





## NYS Ed Law Section 3635

- Section 3635 of the Education Law requires all non-city districts to provide transportation for pupils enrolled in *kindergarten through grades 8 who live more than two miles from the school they attend* and for pupils enrolled in grades 9-12 who live more than three miles from the school they attend *up to a distance of fifteen miles*.
- Transportation for distances less than the statutory distance may be provided, *if the voters approve*.



## North Bellmore Voter Approved Transportation Policy 8410 and 8413

- Transportation shall be provided to those students who are in *grades 4-6 living a distance greater than ONE mile* from the school that they attend.
- The district will provide transportation for all *K-3 students who live a distance greater than one-half mile* from the school they attend.
- The same provisions for transportation of public school children shall apply to children within the district who attend private or parochial schools.



## Difference in Mileage

- NYS Statutory Distance
  - Grades K-8 – more than 2 miles
- North Bellmore UFSD
  - Grades K-3 – more than ½ mile (**1 ½ miles less than statute**)
  - Grades 4-6 – more than 1 mile (**1 mile less than statute**)



## FAQs

- Student moving up to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and no longer eligible for transportation due to mileage
- Families with multiple children in different grade levels
  - One child may be eligible for transportation while a sibling is not eligible
- Struggles with getting children to school and not eligible for transportation



## Change in Voter Approved Policy

- Any changes to the voter approved mileage limits **MUST** go through a public vote.
  - Separate proposition on the ballot passed by a majority of voters.
- Taxpayers can petition the Board of Education to place a separate referendum on the ballot to make a change to the policy.



## Annual Vote and Related Budget

- *Additional costs related to changes in the transportation policy are included in the budget and passed on to the taxpayers through tax levy.*
- Propositions related to transportation mileage limits may increase or decrease the budget.
  - Decreasing the mileage limit > more students transported > increased budgetary costs
  - Increasing the mileage limit > less students transported > budgetary savings
- Large increases to budgetary costs may cause the tax levy to pierce the tax cap.
  - This would require a 60% supermajority for approval.



## 2018-2019 Transportation Propositions

- Four school transportation propositions were included on the ballot for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
  - Proposition 2A – Change mileage limit for grades 4-6 to students living more than **½ mile - Cost \$610,000**
  - Proposition 2B – Change mileage limit for grades K-6 to NYS statutory limit of students living more than **2 miles – Savings \$450,000**
  - Proposition 2C – Keep current mileage limit in place, **K-3 at ½ mile and 4-6 at 1 mile – No change to budget**
  - Proposition 3 – Increase mileage limit for students attending private and parochial schools from **15 miles to 17.5 miles – Cost \$100,000**



## 2018-2019 Transportation Propositions Continued

- Result of Vote
  - Proposition 2A – Change mileage limit for grades 4-6 to ½ mile - Cost \$610,000 – **232 votes 9.15%**
  - Proposition 2B – Change mileage limit for grades K-6 to NYS statutory limit of 2 miles – Savings \$450,000 – **854 votes 33.68%**
  - Proposition 2C – Keep current mileage limit in place, K-3 at ½ mile and 4-6 at 1 mile – No change to budget – **1,450 votes 57.18%**
  - Proposition 3 – Increase mileage limit for students attending private and parochial schools from 15 miles to 17.5 miles – Cost \$100,000 – **452 yes / 1982 no**
- 2018/19 Annual Budget – Failed
  - The budget had the majority vote, but did not meet the supermajority vote requirement of 60%.
- Revote of same budget in June 2018 – Passed with majority vote.



## Cost of Changes

- 2018-2019 Referendum
  - Change mileage limit for grades 4-6 to ½ mile
  - Cost \$610,000
- Transportation costs have increased by over 60% since 2018-2019
  - 45% increase from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024
- Cost to change mileage for grades 4-6 to ½ mile will generate approximately over \$1M in cost.
- Cost to change to transportation for all can cost in excess of \$2M approximately.
- If a referendum is brought to the Board of Education for a public vote, a full analysis for costs will be completed based on the mileage limits proposed.



## State Transportation Aid Ratio – Current 65.3%

- A non-allowable pupil decimal is recomputed every three years to determine the district's transportation aid ratio.
- Generally, non-allowable pupils are non-disabled pupils who live  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles or less from the school attended and are being transported.
- The district currently has non-allowable pupils due to the district policy having distance limits of less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
  - The number of non-allowable pupils will increase if mileage decreases as this will provide transportation for more students living less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, thereby increasing the non-allowable pupil decimal and reducing the district's transportation aid ratio.



## Summary

- Current Mileage Limit:
  - Grades K-3 – more than ½ mile
  - Grades 4-6 – more than 1 mile
- How to Change Limits
  - MUST go through a public vote
  - Taxpayers may petition the Board of Education to include a referendum proposal for the change requested on the annual vote.
- Possible Effect on Budget
  - Increased budget – may require a supermajority to pass
- Possible Effect on State Aid
  - Increased non-allowable pupil decimal > reduction in transportation state aid ratio > reduction in state aid revenue
- Possible Effect on Taxpayers
  - Increased tax levy – ***Taxpayers pay for the change to the transportation policy***