



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' (BPS) NEW BUS RIDERSHIP POLICY

- WHEREAS:** Recently, Boston Public Schools (BPS) announced a new Bus Ridership Procedure which will opt-out students who do not consistently ride the bus. According to the new Ridership Procedure, the goal is to “establish clear procedures of students, families and schools on bus ridership usage” and "improve the reliability, safety and efficiency of yellow bus service for the students who need and use it”; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The new policy will cancel door-to-door service and eliminate bus stops for students who do not show up to take BPS transportation, or provide prior notification, for at least 10 consecutive days; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The procedure outlines that before opting out students, BPS would communicate with families in advance that the student is being opted out, and provide families three business days to confirm if they intend to continue riding the bus. Those who are opted out or do not respond will have their ridership paused, with the option of reinstating transportation services available at any time; *and*
- WHEREAS:** BPS Transportation has faced significant challenges with bus delays over the past decade, especially in the last year. While this new procedure could help streamline bus routes, there are outstanding issues that need to be addressed before this procedure should take into effect; *and*
- WHEREAS:** According to the Boston Globe, while there were around 1000 students who have opted out of the bus service this year, BPS is working with another 1000 students, including 400 students with disabilities on bus services; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There are particular concerns that students with disabilities would be negatively impacted by this new procedure, which would take away what are required services for special education students; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Before implementing this policy, it is important to get clarity on how this would impact the remaining BPS students, including students with disabilities. While students and families deserve to have buses that are reliable and on-time, we must also ensure all BPS students and families are contacted, aware of, and understand the implications of this policy for students and students with disabilities, so that no student or family will be left behind; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the new Boston Public Schools New Ridership Procedure. Representatives from Boston Public Schools, Boston Public School Transportation, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: April 30, 2025