



# Garrison

Union Free School District

## TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITION VOTE

**DECEMBER 5, 2023**

*“Shall the Board of Education be authorized to transport all students of the School District, regardless of the distance they live from the school they legally attend, effective immediately, which additional transportation currently costs \$16,200?”*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **WHY IS THE DISTRICT HOLDING THIS VOTE ON DECEMBER 5, 2023?**

Education Law requires school districts to transport all K-8 students who live more than two miles from school and all 9-12 students who live more than three miles from school. Transporting students living within two or three miles from school requires voter approval. Despite a thorough examination of internal records and newspaper archives, the District has not found evidence of prior public approval for providing transportation for students within two or three miles from school. Consequently, the District's attorneys have recommended holding a public vote for our district to continue providing transportation for all students.

### **WHAT IS THE ADDITIONAL COST FOR TRANSPORTING STUDENTS WHO LIVE WITHIN TWO OR THREE MILES FROM SCHOOL?**

The District estimates a cost of \$16,200, which is equivalent to approximately 1.6% of the annual transportation budget. This expense difference is due to the slightly extended time for picking up students residing within two or three miles of their schools. This expense was already incorporated into the 2023-24 budget.

### **WHY IS THE EXPENSE DIFFERENCE SO MINIMAL?**

The Garrison Union Free School District covers an area of 16 square miles, necessitating the use of four buses (three large and one small) to transport students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Even if the District were to discontinue transportation for students living within two to three miles of their schools, it would still need four buses to cover all designated routes.

### **IF THE PROPOSITION IS VOTED DOWN, HOW MANY STUDENTS WOULD BE AFFECTED?**

Presently, the District offers transportation services for 308 students enrolled in grades K-12. Among these students, 59 reside within two or three miles of their respective schools. If the December 5th transportation proposition is not approved, the District will need to discontinue bus services for these 59 students immediately.

### **IF THE PROPOSITION IS APPROVED, WILL THERE BE NEED FOR ANOTHER TRANSPORTATION VOTE AGAIN NEXT YEAR?**

No. Once the voters approve providing transportation for students within two or three miles from school, the District will be able to continue this level of service annually.

### **HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON NYSED'S TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS?**

For more information on school district transportation requirements, please visit NYSED's website at <https://stateaid.nysed.gov/trans/requirement.htm>. To ask a specific transportation-related question, please email our School Business Administrator, Joseph Jimick at [jjimick@gufs.org](mailto:jjimick@gufs.org).