

Crete Busing Fees

Talking Points

June 2018

At the June Board of Education meeting, the Board approved an increase in bus fees for students living in town or living within four miles of a school building attendance center. Listed are a few of the reasons the increase is being implemented:

1. Crete Public Schools began charging \$1 per ride for students living in town for the 1997-1998 school year. This fee was considered in March of 1997 and approved by the Board of Education in May 1997 - to be implemented in the 1997-1998 school year. This amount was and continued to be the same for students living within four miles through the 2017-2018 school year.
2. The school district does not receive state funding for busing in town students. If the student lives outside the 4-mile radius, the school receives additional funding through the school funding formula. Therefore, the school must pay 100% of the cost for in town riders. This can be accomplished by the school paying 100%, the families paying 100%, or a combination of both.
3. The cost for Crete Public Schools to have a busing company provide the routes increases by 3% every year in our current contract. Without an increase in fees, this leads to an ever-widening gap between the percent the school pays for in town busing and what a family will pay. Although I have no data to show the percent of school & family pay in 1997, the percent paid by the school has slowly increased over the years. In 2017-2018, a full bus of paying riders covered 40% of the bus. With the fee increase, the school will continue to pay approximately 25% of the cost for a bus.
4. In 2016-2017, Crete Public Schools and First Student bus company were struggling to find drivers. CPS requested and received a pay increase for the drivers. This increase is reflected in the new contract with Mid States bus company, which additionally adds to the increasing cost of busing students.
5. If the cost of a one-way ride increased at the same 3% each year (as the cost of a bus has increased), the following table is an indication of what the adjusted price could have been:

1997: \$1.00	2001: \$1.12	2005: \$1.26	2009: \$1.42	2013: \$1.60	2017: \$1.80
1998: \$1.03	2002: \$1.15	2006: \$1.30	2010: \$1.46	2014: \$1.65	2018: \$1.85
1999: \$1.06	2003: \$1.18	2007: \$1.34	2011: \$1.50	2015: \$1.70	
2000: \$1.09	2004: \$1.22	2008: \$1.38	2012: \$1.55	2016: \$1.75	