

My name is Anne King and I live at 88 Greenacres Ave, Scarsdale.

I am writing to express my concern about changing the existing bus policy for private and parochial school students. While I do empathize and agree with the position of the parents who desire busing, I do not think this should come at the expense of the safety and well-being of non-public school students who do not receive any other services from the district. Please consider the following points:

- New York State law requires that Scarsdale non-public school students who live 3 miles from their school are bused to school. The same number of buses and bus drivers will be needed to transport students no matter where they are picked up.

- My children attend the French American School. This school has 3 locations. If they were required to be at different group pick-up points at the same time of the morning, it would immediately become impossible for them to reach these locations. The children are too young for me to leave one on the corner while I tried to get the other to their location. I would be forced to remove them from this great school and place them in the Scarsdale Schools. The tax money that I currently pay, being used for other Scarsdale students will then no longer be available. Leading to the next point.

Families of private and parochial school students pay school taxes but their children do not use the schools, only the buses, which frees up more education dollars for public schools.

- What about the parent's who are sending their children to schools such as Windward? They have very unplanned financial strain on their families, having wished to send all their children to the local Scarsdale school (having bought their houses here). These families too pay full taxes and do not get the benefit of the Scarsdale School education for all their children. They have high private school tuition, and would be further strained by a group location pick-up point.

- Changing the existing policy would put additional burdens on families already paying school taxes and additional tuitions, and would be unfair given the expectations that were in place upon moving in.

I believe that the parents looking for busing services for their families have a very good point, though it can not be at the expense for other residence. Not only are there no good sidewalks for their children, there are no good sidewalks for all Scarsdale citizens. In a day and age where people need more exercise I am surprised that Scarsdale, a Village with so much going for it, has not already implemented sidewalk installation everywhere, and/ or safe biking lanes.

The distance requirement for busing does need to be made more reasonable for all Scarsdale families.

Thank you.

Anne King