



2023-24 Transportation Update

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Board of Education Work Session
Aug. 15, 2023

Desired Outcomes

Board members will gain an understanding of:

- The district's ongoing bus driver recruitment efforts;
- Current bus driver staffing levels;
- Efforts to mitigate impact of the bus driver shortage on families and related communications to schools and families; and
- Vendor transportation staffing levels.

Driver Recruitment Update

114

Bus driver leads received via the landing page interest form since August 1.

43

Bus driver candidates have passed DMV and CRC checks and have been invited to the August 21 CDL training class.

31

Bus driver candidates have passed DMV check and are awaiting CRC clearance. Once cleared, they will be invited to the next CDL training class.

16

Bus driver candidates have cleared both checks and passed the CDL class. Some are already WCPSS bus driver trainees. Others are currently enrolled in or awaiting enrollment in DMV training.

Current State

- **About 560** total CDL drivers
- **90,000** registered riders

Plans to Mitigate Impact of Driver Shortage

- Start the traditional calendar school year with all riders assigned to a route with a permanent driver
- Continue to employ double-backs, a hub system, and multi-school routes
- Lift the “on-time” arrival practice where necessary to allow time to pick up all assigned riders
- Provide clear and timely communication to all affected schools and families

Assigning Riders to Routes

- All riders assigned to a route with a driver
- Assigned all riders to a route by stretching the bus run times beyond the typical arrival time standards of last school year

Planned AM arrival time	Number of Students
Less than 10 minutes before the AM bell	7885
1-10 minutes after the AM bell	1446
11-20 minutes after the AM bell	1008
21-30 minutes after the AM bell	481
More than 30 minutes after the AM bell	222

- Does not reduce impact of driver callouts

Covering Driver Absences on Any Route

- Another available driver will collect Tier 3 (elementary) riders on the uncovered route after his/her regular routes have been completed. Service will be late.
- Schools will be notified when there is an uncovered route. Notifications also will be posted on wcpss.net/busupdates.
- Families of Tier 1 and 2 riders (middle and high school students) on uncovered routes will need to provide their own transportation
- 10% absentee rate = approx. 6,000 riders impacted with late or no service

Vendor Transportation - 2022-23

- 3,580 total riders (special needs, preK, McKinney-Vento)
- Vendors also experienced a driver shortage.
- Approximately 200-400 students a day received significantly delayed service in the morning and/or afternoon.
- These delays were communicated in the morning and the afternoon to schools and families via email and text.

Vendor Transportation - 2023-24

- Contacted all riders in the spring to offer them the option of providing their own transportation for a stipend.
- Approximately 540 accepted stipend and will provide their own transportation this school year.
- Continue to receive and process stipend requests.

Vendor Transportation - 2023-24

- 2,800+ riders assigned to 225 vendor transportation routes
- **All riders are assigned to a vehicle with a driver**
- As with yellow bus, some runs will arrive to school after the standard arrival time
- When a driver is absent, another driver will pick up their 3rd tier students after completing their regular run (when necessary)
- Communications is working with Transportation to develop the most effective way to communicate late vehicles to parents

Next Steps

- Communication to all registered riders regarding this plan - Aug. 16
- Communication to all registered riders regarding route assignments - Aug. 18
- Back-to-school message for all families - Aug. 23
- Efforts to grow the number of yellow bus and vendor drivers



Questions?