

# Transportation Update

**Mark Strickland**, Chief of Facilities and Operations

**AJ Muttillo**, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

**Bob Snidemiller**, Senior Director, Transportation

Board of Education Work Session

Sept. 5, 2023

# Desired outcomes

## Board members will gain an understanding of:

- First-week performance indicators;
- Efforts to mitigate impact of bus driver shortage on families and staff;
- Bus driver recruitment and retention update; and
- Transportation planning for 2024-25.

# First-week performance indicators

- **All students assigned to a route received transportation in first week**
- 96% of runs ran on time and arrived before start of instructional day
- Average daily call-outs: 28 (5.2%)
- About 25% fewer customer support requests compared to last year
- All 226 EC transportation routes have a driver and on-time performance was strong

# Efforts to mitigate impact on families and staff

- Targeted adjustment of routes to improve campus arrival and departure times as new drivers are hired with a **priority on assigning available drivers to runs for Title I schools**
- School communication to families, changes posted on [wcpss.net/busupdates](http://wcpss.net/busupdates) and tracking via Here Comes the Bus
- Creation of Learning Lab program to pay certified and non-certified staff who arrive before or remain on campus after their workday to supervise students due to driver shortage

# Driver recruitment update

- 100+ interest form submissions received per week via landing page
- 50 candidates invited to Sept. 11 CDL class
- 17 bus driver hiring recommendations presented to Board since Aug. 1 (included 10 presented tonight)
- Anticipate hiring 4-6 new drivers a week in both September and October
- Bus driver advertising to continue throughout 2023-24
- Adjustment to \$1,200 sign-on incentive to provide full payment to new hires sooner

# Driver retention update

- New \$1,000 retention incentive to be paid to bus drivers annually in a mid-September payroll
- Existing \$500/semester (\$1,000/year) attendance bonus
- Additional \$200/month (\$2,000/year) perfect attendance bonus
- Potential compensation increases based on funding included in final state budget

# FY 2024-2025 Transportation Planning



# Questions?