



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926, www.esd401.org, Phone: 509-925-8000, Fax: 509-925-802

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff

Sought sot

Re: Transportation Update

The Ellensburg School District has actively sought to fill our vacant bus driver positions as advertisements and postings for bus driver positions have been in place throughout this entire year. Currently, we have two viable bus driver candidates for next year. However, in order to be ready to provide quality transportation for next year, ESD will need to move forward in working with our software company to collaboratively design models we could implement with our current number of bus drivers. Therefore, moving forward, we will no longer be considering the transfer system for next year.

Recently, ESD has hosted six stakeholder listening sessions, a session for each school and one for our Spanish speaking families. Eric Engle (Director of Transportation), Brian Akien (Executive Director of Finance), and I have analyzed feedback from these sources concerning potential transportation models for next year. During those meetings, a theme that was evident with all of the stakeholders, was a concern for the gap of time that exists currently between the first tier and second tier of students. Currently, that time is approximately one-hour and 50 minutes.

Utilizing the information gathered during these stakeholder listening sessions, we will collaborate with the consultants from Education Logistics Software Company to design two potential models for next year. Our understanding is that both models will decrease the current one-hour and 50-minute gap that exists within our tiered system this year.

These two models for next year include:

1. Tiered Start System with students attending their current schools.
2. Tiered Start System with students attending schools within their zones of attendance or boundaries.

It has been determined that in both of these models the gap time between the first and second tier is significantly reduced when we place the middle school and high school students in the first tier. We are, therefore, moving forward with having secondary students in the first tier for next year. Additionally, we asked Education Logistics to create a transportation system in both models that brings the tiers closer together with a potential window of approximately 7:30 am to 8:50 as opposed to the current gap that is approximately 7:30 am to 9:20.

At a Board meeting in June, we will provide the ESD Board of Education with an executive summary regarding the two-tiered systems that are outlined above. Once reviewed, they will vote on which tiered start system ESD will implement for next year. The vote of the Board is necessary because one of the options involves the implementation of boundaries. If the Board chooses the tiered system with boundaries, we will implement a Board Boundary Committee to provide feedback on the proposed tiered start plan with boundaries. We will also ask this committee to engage in the development of a potential choice process that could accompany boundary changes in ESD. Please join us for the ESD Board Study Session June 9, 2021 at 4:30pm, as a follow up to this important process.

Sincerely,

Jinger Haberer, ESD Superintendent

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