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## Important Note Regarding Potential Bus Cancellations

1 message

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Thu, Oct 13, 2022 at 12:03 PM

Dear Dexter Families,

If your student(s) ride(s) a bus, please read the following information carefully.

### INTRODUCTION

In response to the national shortage of bus drivers that we are also experiencing in Dexter, DCS has prepared a series of contingency plans to provide consistency of bus service for our families. Most of the contingency plans we have utilized and/or developed are handled internally and are created so as not to disrupt service to any students. However, we are at a point that we must put a contingency plan in place to allow parents adequate notice.

Our last resort plan, that we hope to never have to use, involves **potential rotating outages** throughout the school year. We believe our parents should know in advance that this possibility exists to prepare a backup plan. If DCS is unable to cover all of our routes in a given day, we may have to cancel two routes at a time on a rotating basis. In short, each current bus route will be scheduled for three separate weeks of potential outages rotating throughout the school year. In the event that the transportation department is adequately staffed at the time of the scheduled outage, the outage may only be some days that week or may not need to happen at all. A complete schedule of bus runs that would be on the scheduled outage rotation is at the end of this message.

### DETAILS:

- Each route will have 3 weeks scheduled to be a “possible shutdown” between October 24th and June 9th.
- These will not be 3 weeks in a row and instead will be spaced out evenly throughout the year.
- Route status updates will be sent via email, text, and phone, to the affected routes only, on the Friday before the shutdown week.
- Daily messages will be sent out by 6:30 AM to update parents to the affected routes only, regarding whether their route will be running that day or not.
- If you have blocked us from texting or aren't sure that you are receiving email and voice messages, please update your contact info with your school office.
- **Important note:** students may not hop on a nearby route that is running, even if you believe there is enough room. Non-scheduled riders will be turned away.

We may not need to shut down the route at all during your assigned week. It may also just be select days that week. It will be very important for families to check their messages during their assigned weeks.

### CARPOOLING

Some alternatives that may or may not work for your family for no-bus days might be driving in your own students; coordinating a carpool in your neighborhood; or swapping morning and afternoon routes with another family whose schedule matches yours.

In order to facilitate communication between families on the same routes who might want to carpool, we have created google forms that parents and guardians **may** complete in order to share information. The link to complete these forms will be emailed to the families on each route only. You do not need to participate in this sharing of information if you prefer not to participate. Please watch your email for the form and more detailed information.

*(continued)*

## SUMMARY

We know this contingency plan is disruptive for everyone and may be a hardship for some families. Please know that we are doing everything we can to keep the buses staffed, including having the transportation director, dispatcher, and mechanics driving routes when needed.

**We are still hiring drivers! Please consider joining our team and/or referring your friends to us. Call Transportation at 734-424-4190 if you're interested. Help us recruit bus drivers!**

It is our greatest hope that we will not have to implement these contingency plans, but we wanted to be transparent, proactive, and give everyone as much time as possible to plan. More specific details will follow in the coming days.

Please see below for scheduled potential shutdown weeks listed by route.

Sincerely,

Deneen Smith, Transportation Director  
Craig McCalla, Principal for Operations  
Chris Timmis, Superintendent  
**Dexter Community Schools**

## ROUTES

<b>Bus Routes to be Shut Down</b>	<b>Possible Shutdown Week 1 (if needed)</b>	<b>Possible Shutdown Week 2 (if needed)</b>	<b>Possible Shutdown Week 3 (if needed)</b>
BUS 26 / BUS 36	10/24 - 10/28	1/16 - 1/20	4/3 - 4/7
BUS 20 / BUS 31	10/31 - 11/4	1/23 - 1/27	4/10 - 4-14
BUS 28 / BUS 30	11/7 - 11/11	1/30 - 2/3	4/17 - 4/21
BUS 29 / BUS 4	11/14 - 11/18	2/6 - 2/10	4/24 - 4/28
BUS 23 / BUS 25	11/21 - 11/25	2/13 - 2/17	5/1 - 5/5
BUS 33 / BUS 18	11/28 - 12/2	2/20 - 2/24	5/8 - 5/12
BUS 32 / BUS 35	12/5 - 12/9	2/27 - 3/3	5/15 - 5/19
BUS 10 / BUS 27	12/12 - 12/16	3/6 - 3/10	5/22 - 5/26
BUS 24 / BUS 21	12/19 - 12/23	3/13 - 3/17	5/29 - 6/2
BUS 17 / BUS 19	1/9 - 1/13	3/20 - 3/24	6/5 - 6/9