



Transportation Update

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Finance and Operations



Our Current Reality

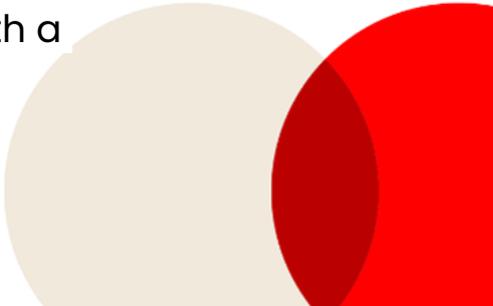
We currently have:

- About 100 AM and 100 PM general education bus routes, serviced by about 106 full time daily drivers and 6 consistent daily substitute drivers.
- 6 AM and 6 PM in-district special ed routes AND 66 contracted special ed routes for students that require special transportation.
- 7 AM and 7 PM “open” routes that have no permanent driver assigned (mechanics and office staff are covering).
- **1 AM and 1 PM route that is canceled due to a lack of a driver.**
 - 170 students without transportation as a result of the canceled route.
- **We are now contracting 1 AM and 1 PM general route**
 - The contractor cost is roughly double what we spend
- Activity busing is limited.

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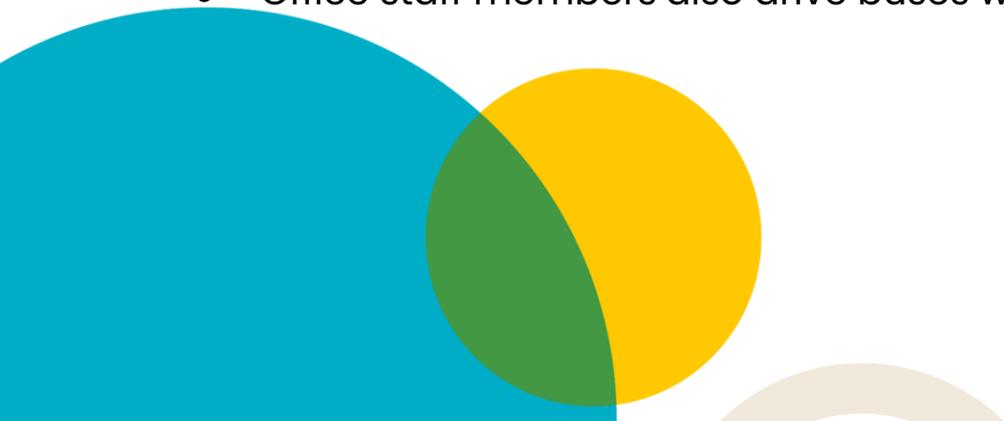
School districts are required to transport students who live 2 miles or more from their school.

- Currently, we provide transportation to:
 - Elementary students who live outside of 1 mile from school
 - Middle school students who live outside of 1.5 miles from school
 - High school students who live outside of 2 miles from school
 - Each elementary general education bus has a capacity of 77 students, with 3 kids per seat
 - Each middle and high school bus has about 2 kids per seat, with a capacity of 52 students.
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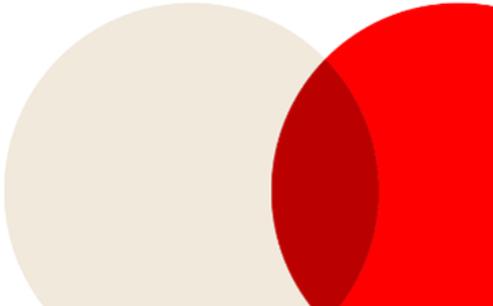
Our Transportation Department has been working hard to ensure that most SoWashCo families do not feel the transportation issues we continue to face.

- We have an aging driver workforce, thus the potential for a larger number of retirements in the coming years.
- Every day we have mechanics driving school buses. They serve as the cushion when absences or illnesses arise.
- Office staff members also drive buses when needed.



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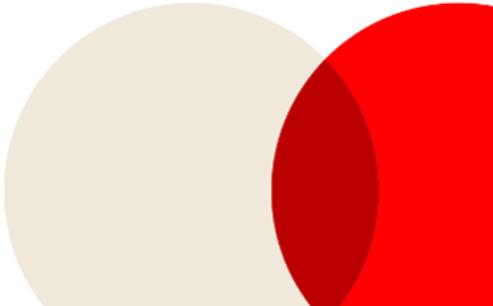
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- We are actively recruiting drivers every day.
 - At a minimum, the hiring process takes a month from interview to driving.
 - Per state statute, all transportation eligible students are routed.
 - We have utilized an opt-out option for high school students, with some success in reducing ridership.
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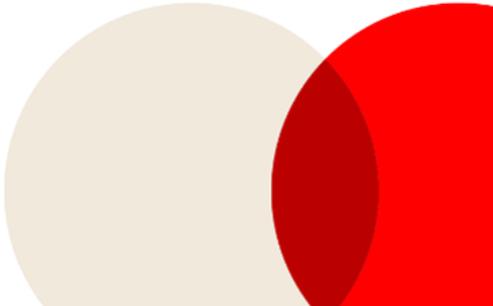
Options we are considering:

- Moving to an **opt-in transportation system** for 2023–24 school year
 - Implementing a radius model to determine transportation distances (this requires a change to existing district policy).
 - Evaluating how changing distances used in the current non-busing zones are impacting transportation routes. (For example: 1 mile, 1.5 mile and 2.0 miles)
 - Tracking system for bus ridership for load counts
 - Cost \$ 110,000 per year
 - I.D. Badge system
 - More accurate load counts helps routing
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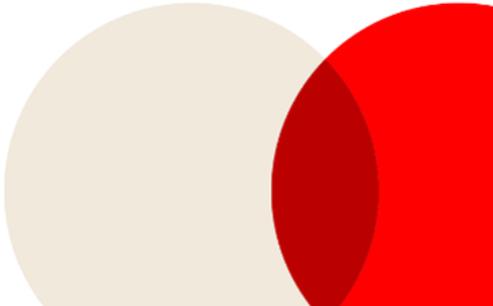
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Options we are considering:

- Evaluating “hazardous” areas and developing safe routes to school in partnership with:
 - City traffic engineers
 - Washington County traffic engineers
 - Utilizing the Extraordinary Hazard Traffic Committee to determine criteria and review each school walking area, as needed.
 - Meeting with bus driver union leaders to gather new ideas
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Timeline

- **February 15:** Transportation Routing Steering Committee meeting
 - Discuss Opt-In Transportation System
 - Receive an update on Extraordinary Hazard Sub-Committee work
 - Consider mileage options
 - Discuss radius measurement system
 - Learn about availability of transportation contractors
 - **March 14 – April 11:** Opt-In Window for school bus transportation for 2023–24 school year
 - **March:** Survey/Community Meeting to share transportation information with parents
 - **April 6:** Possible policy changes
 - **May 4:** Board presented with policy changes
 - **May 18:** Final Board decision on policy changes
 - **May:** Communicate any changes to families
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questions/comments?

