



# School District of the City of Pontiac

Kelley Williams, Superintendent | 47200 Woodward Ave, Pontiac, MI 48342 | 248.451.6800

April 18, 2023

Dear Pontiac School District Families:

Transportation challenges continue to plague our district and districts across the country. We know and understand the frustration and anger that you feel with the continued inconsistencies of bus service due to the shortage of qualified bus drivers. We feel it too. These issues are unacceptable. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer.

That said, we continue to thoroughly explore every possibility to find alternative options to get our students to school safely and consistently every day.

Over the past months we have spent countless hours researching and identifying the best solution for our families and district to ensure our kids are brought to school safely and on time daily. Through this process we have determined that moving to another transportation partner is an important step. As of June 30, 2023, our transportation partner will be First Student.

First Student has already begun working closely with the district putting measures in place to prevent these issues from continuing into the 2023-2024 school year. They will be working with us all summer for both Summer School and beyond to make sure all drivers are trained and well-versed with our neighborhoods before the start of the school year. They are confident they will have staff to cover all routes and substitutes and have begun their hiring now for next year.

We remain appreciative of Trinity's continued efforts to hire and retain drivers. We will work tirelessly with them as they strive to eliminate as many of these issues as possible for the remaining weeks of the year, however we know there will still be delays and call offs due to the industry shortage.

We ask that you help us when you can in getting your students to school during this time. We know these call offs often come in last minute leaving little opportunity to plan but hope you will work with your friends and neighbors to have some options in place with carpooling or other backups when these incidents occur. If you know of anyone who is looking for a position both Trinity and First Student are actively recruiting drivers. Please feel free to direct them to Pontiac School District Human Resources at 248.451.6865 or email [hr@pontiacschools.org](mailto:hr@pontiacschools.org).

Our students' attendance is imperative for their success. We must work together to finish this year strong for our students despite the circumstances.

Sincerely,

Kelley Williams, Superintendent