



Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds everyone well. I'm writing to provide an update on the current situation regarding school bus transportation in our district and to address concerns that have arisen due to the national school bus driver shortage.

As you may be aware, there is a widespread shortage of school bus drivers across the country, and our district has not been immune to these challenges. This shortage has been exacerbated by a variety of factors, including increased demand for transportation services and a limited pool of qualified candidates.

Despite our proactive efforts to recruit and retain qualified drivers, we have encountered difficulties in fully staffing our bus routes. This shortage has resulted in delays and disruptions to our trips and regular transportation services, impacting pick-up and sometimes drop-off times for certain routes.

Please know that we understand the inconvenience and frustration this situation may cause. We sincerely apologize for any disruption to your daily routine and assure that we are actively working to address this issue.

To mitigate the impact of the driver shortage, we are taking the following steps:

1. **Increased Recruitment Efforts:** We are intensifying our efforts to attract and hire qualified bus drivers by increasing our driver contracts from 4 hours to 5 hours, offering unlimited overtime for additional routes and field/athletic trips, offering competitive compensation packages, and most recently, passing a levy that will provide a brand new transportation center.
2. **Adjusting Routes and Schedules:** In some cases, we may need to make temporary adjustments to bus routes or schedules to optimize our existing resources and ensure the most efficient service to ensure all students have a way to and from school safely.
3. **Communication and Transparency:** We are committed to keeping you informed about any changes to transportation services. Regular updates will be provided when the need arises through email and direct communication with parents through PikMyKid.

We understand the importance of reliable transportation for our students and recognize the impact this shortage has on families. Please be assured that we are actively addressing the issue and exploring every possible solution to normalize our transportation services. As of Thursday 11/30/23, we were able to hire a new driver with a background in road trucking (semi truck) and as a school bus driver. He's very excited to start and serve our community!

If you have any specific concerns or if you would like more information about your student's transportation status, please feel free to reach out to our transportation department at transportation@amherstk12.org or you can call us at **440-988-2633**.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate through these challenges together. We appreciate your continued support.

Best regards,

Teea Ford Transportation Supervisor Amherst Exempted Village School District



Transportation Supervisor

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