

Name	Email	Topic	Public Comment
Joan Chard	joanchard@comcast.net	Fwd: "CCSD Bus Driver and Route Changes Endanger Physical & Emotional Health"	<p>Editor at Post & Courier Editor at Moultrie News</p> <p>"CCSD Bus Driver and Route Changes Endanger Physical & Emotional Health"</p> <p>Charleston County School District's Student Transportation Bus System invented its own version of childhood game "Fruit basket Upset" (making people scramble for a seat when the music stops, with one seat short).</p> <p>After two months of students keeping their old bus drivers, and bus drivers keeping their old routes, transportation officials suddenly gave drivers different routes with different students. Schools affected are Belle Hall Elementary, Cario Middle, Laural Hill Primary and Pickney Elementary.</p> <p>Transportation's excuse was one over-crowded route, but that is no excuse for the ensuing consequential physical and emotional safety problems.</p> <p>Physical safety problems become evident as winter pick-ups are frequently in darkness (pick-up at 7:00 a.m., but sunrise not until 7:30 a.m.), with only memory to guide drivers, making it imperative for drivers to be familiar with each subdivision's special danger spots.</p> <p>Emotional safety problems become evident as both drivers and students must establish new relationships, after students previously felt safe/secure with a driver they had come to know/trust, often for years. With job satisfaction levels at all-time lows, many drivers find job meaning and purpose in interactions with students, having known their brothers/sisters as passengers.</p> <p>Drivers and students come in varying ages and colors. What better dynamic for teaching tolerance than the personal, long-term positive interactions of ages and races? CCSD Transportation owes drivers, students and parents a complete explanation of their "risk vs. reward" detrimental thinking. Reverse this harmful change of drivers and routes immediately!</p> <p>Joan Chard</p>