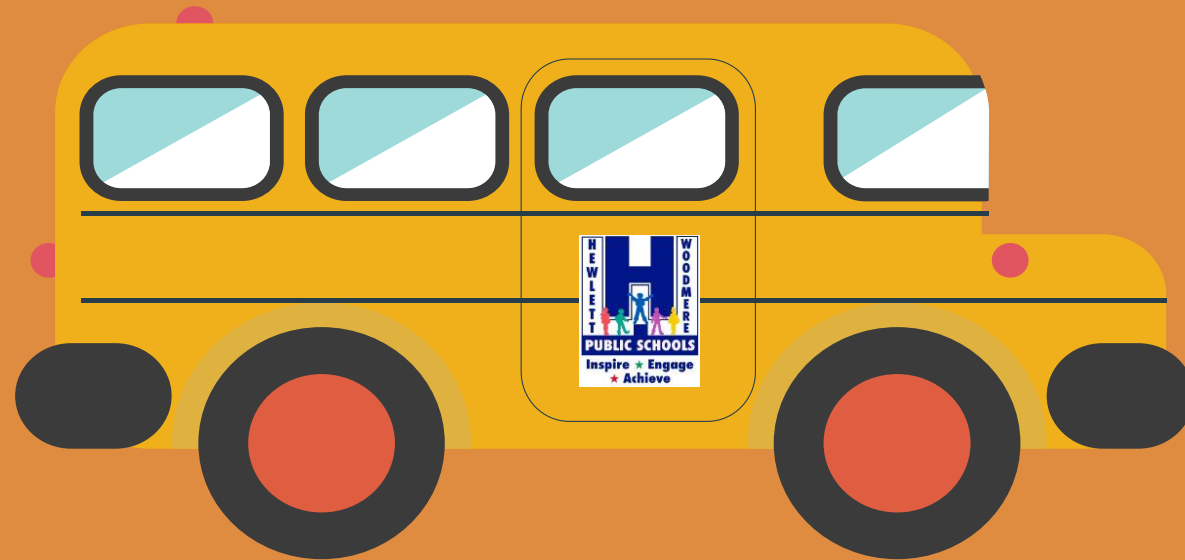


Public & Private Schools Council

HWPS Transportation Overview

January 14th, 2025



School Bus Driver Shortage

Post-pandemic, the impact of the Nationwide school bus driver shortage has changed how bus companies and school districts operate and the way they provide services to students.



CAPITAL REGION

Area school districts combat driver shortage with bus service changes

By Shenandoah Briere, Ashley Onyon and Eden Stratton Dec 21, 2024 Updated Dec 21, 2024



Consequences



- **Limitations to Added Services:** Buses may not be available for new students or students with special circumstances
- **Overcrowded Buses:** Buses may become overcrowded, leading to safety concerns
- **Parental Challenges:** Parents may need to adjust their schedules to transport their children to and from school
- **Increased Costs:** School districts may incur higher costs due to the need for alternative transportation solutions

What has been done to mitigate the impact of the driver shortage?

Vans

- Beginning in 2024-25, the District has contracted with 3 bus companies to provide van services



Transportation Overview

2024-2025	Schools	Students Transported
Public	5	1,212
Special Education	9	17
Non-Public	80	1,871
Total	94	3,100 Bus Routes: 333



Through the Years...

	2014-2015		2019-2020		2024-2025	
	Schools	Students Transported	Schools	Students Transported	Schools	Students Transported
Public	5	1,459	5	1,324	5	1,212
Special Education	21	32	13	19	9	17
Non-Public	61	1,002	67	1,493	80	1,871
Total	87	2,493	85	2,836	94	3,100

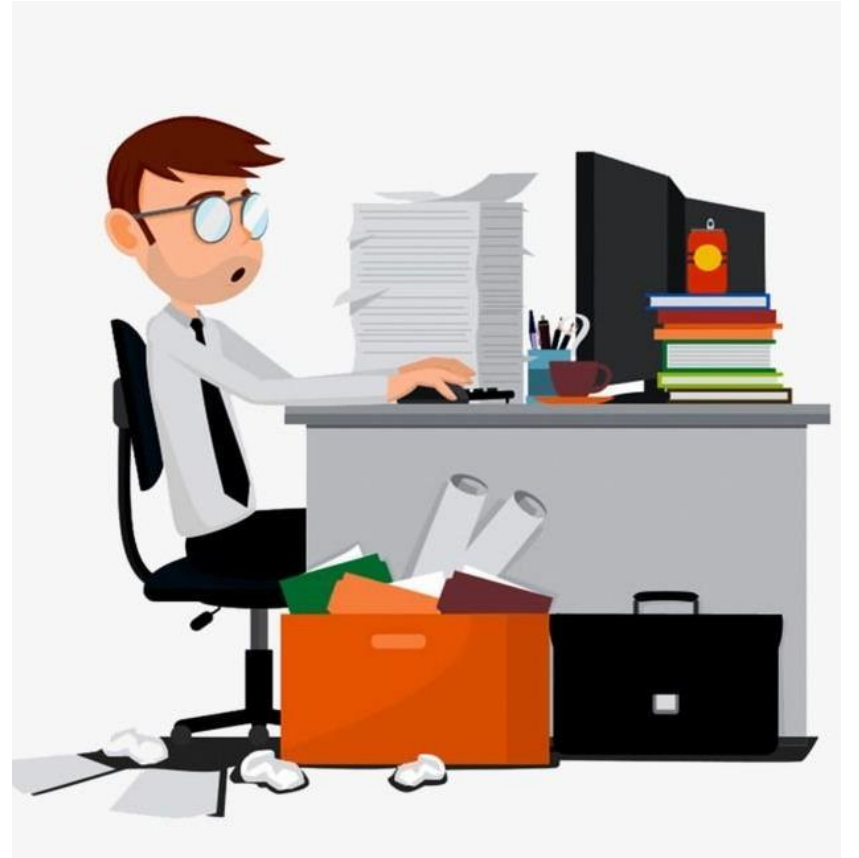
Keys to Success

PLANNING & COMMUNICATION



Planning

- Planning for the next school year starts in February and continues through the first day of school:
 - Process non-public school transportation requests
 - Review and update database for public school students, including students with special needs
 - Obtain information and calendars from non-public schools
 - Develop bus routes
 - Bid new transportation routes
 - Assign routes to bus companies



Communication

- Dispatcher on call 12 hours a day from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM (4:00 PM Friday)
- Text Alerts
- GPS Tracking
 - Provides helpful information to appropriately address issues, such as delays



Safety is Our Top Priority

- Camera Installation on Buses and Vans

 - Monitors the behavior of students, drivers, & matrons

 - Allows the District to effectively address a range of issues that may arise throughout a trip

- Driver Screenings

 - We require thorough background checks and ensure compliance with all NYS regulations throughout the course of the year

- GPS Tracking

 - Provides important information regarding the speed and location of vehicles at all times

Town of Hempstead Bus Stop-Arm Program

- Stop-arm cameras identify illegal passers. Tickets are issued to the vehicle's owner.
- In the program's first year, the town generated \$13M in revenue from over 140,000 fines.



Additional Services

Field Trip



Services for Displaced Families



- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 - Designed to support children and youth experiencing homelessness
 - Schools are required to provide transportation to the school of origin if requested, to minimize disruption in the student's education
 - The District must provide transportation immediately upon request

Residency Assistance



Key Responsibilities:

- **Collaboration with Residency Office:** Partner with the residency office to ensure that only students within the school district's boundaries utilize bus services.
- **Investigation of Bus Stops:** Monitor and investigate bus stops to identify if children from outside the District are being dropped off.

Impact of Effective Residency Verification:

- **Fair Access:** Ensures that transportation resources are fairly distributed among eligible students.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Helps manage transportation costs by preventing unauthorized use of services.
- **Enhanced Safety:** Promotes the safety and security of all students by accurately tracking bus stop usage.

Coming Up...

In April 2022, the New York State Legislature passed a budget to transition school bus fleets to zero-emissions. *The legislation requires by:*



With roughly 50,000 school buses across New York State, the legislation poses challenges for school districts to consider when planning for such a transition, including fleet distances, charging times, and reliability. School districts will need to implement electric charging stations, identify potential solar applications, and implement significant utility infrastructure upgrades to transition a large electric bus fleet.

Transportation Dept Webpage

HOME > DISTRICT > TRANSPORTATION

Transportation

Woodmere Education Center
Transportation Office 1 Johnson Place - Room 308
Woodmere, New York 11598
Phone: (516) 792-4814
Fax: (516) 374-8139

[TRANSPORTATION Q&A](#)

[Click here for form to request a bus stop change](#)

[Click here for form to appeal a decision of the Transportation Office](#)



Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools does not provide transportation for students (public & non-public) on the following days:

- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Friday After Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Day



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

James Igoe

School Business Administrator

516-792-4814

jigoe@hewlett-woodmere.net



Drive Safely!