THE DRIVER'S SEAT SPRING 2025 EDITION

410-751-3229

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Director
Michael Hardesty

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Supervisor
Keith Shorter:
Out-of-County Special Needs, & Liberty, Century & South Carroll High Areas

.....

Area Supervisors
Kristin Ebert:
Manchester Valley & Francis Scott Key High Areas
Kim Gold:
Winters Mill & Westminster High Areas

In-County Special Needs
Chip Weaver

Operational Performance
Anita Stubenrauch

.....

Driver Instructors
Angela Williams
Scheneeka Weeden
Shana Clark

.....

Planner/Analysts
Scott Parsons
Nick Chalk
Caleb Yirdaw

Routing Associates
Sue Hudson
Jill Fulton

.....

Staff Support
Cindy Washick

First, let me give a big **SHOUT OUT** to all our contractors, drivers, assistants and our driver instructors. With the 2024-2025 school year over 80% complete as of this writing, we have had an excellent year compared to the past few years relative to driver shortages that create obvious operational problems when buses aren't on the road. We have seen a marked increase in the number of driver candidates who attend classroom training, obtain their CDL learners permit, complete the required behind-the-wheel training, and pass the test to become certified drivers. Congratulations to the 54 new CCPS school bus drivers certified this school year as of March 31, 2025!

Second, another **SHOUT OUT** for the outstanding fall (75% with no defects) and spring (78% with no defects, based on MVA recorded results) bus inspections. For the spring inspection conducted by the Maryland Motor Vehicle School Bus Safety Inspection Section, a total of 290 buses were inspected with twenty contractors having zero defects found in their fleet! Our department takes great pride in the quality and thoroughness of our three Type B bus inspections conducted each school year; however, it is the drivers, mechanics and bus contractors having a good preventive maintenance program and the immediate attention to maintenance issues as they arise that make for a quality inspection. Congratulations to those contractors and drivers with zero defects found.

This year's winter season turned quite cold with some snow and ice in January and early February resulting in the transportation snow watch team being out on the roads numerous times. This year it was necessary to close school a total of four days, make 2-hour delay announcements on four occasions, and dismiss school 3 hours early on one occasion. The recommendation to close, delay or dismiss schools early are never easy decisions and are made in consultation with the latest weather forecasts, observed road conditions, the status of school sidewalks and parking lots, and observations from adjoining counties.

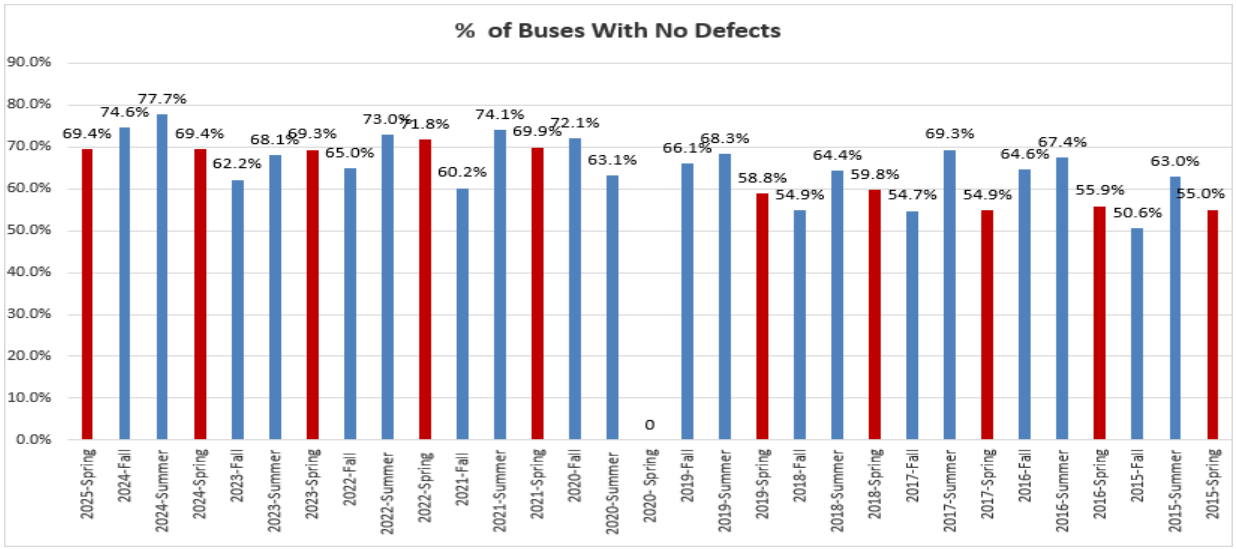
Finally, we are looking forward to providing an exceptional in-service training for drivers and assistants. In-person training will take place on either Tuesday, June 17 or Wednesday, June 18 at Winters Mill High School. Prior to the in-person training there will, again, be a required **Safe Schools** on-line portion of the annual in-service training. **This on-line training must be completed in order to attend the in-person portion of the in-service.** Additional details will be forthcoming soon.

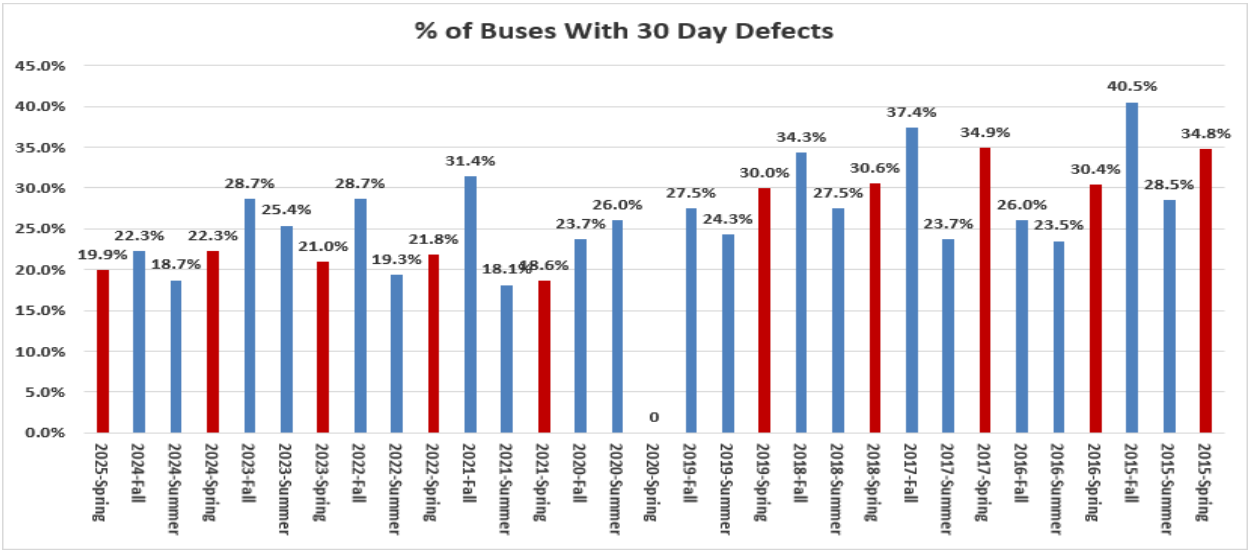
Please have a safe end to the school year and enjoy the upcoming summer season with family and friends as we'll do it all over again next year starting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025!

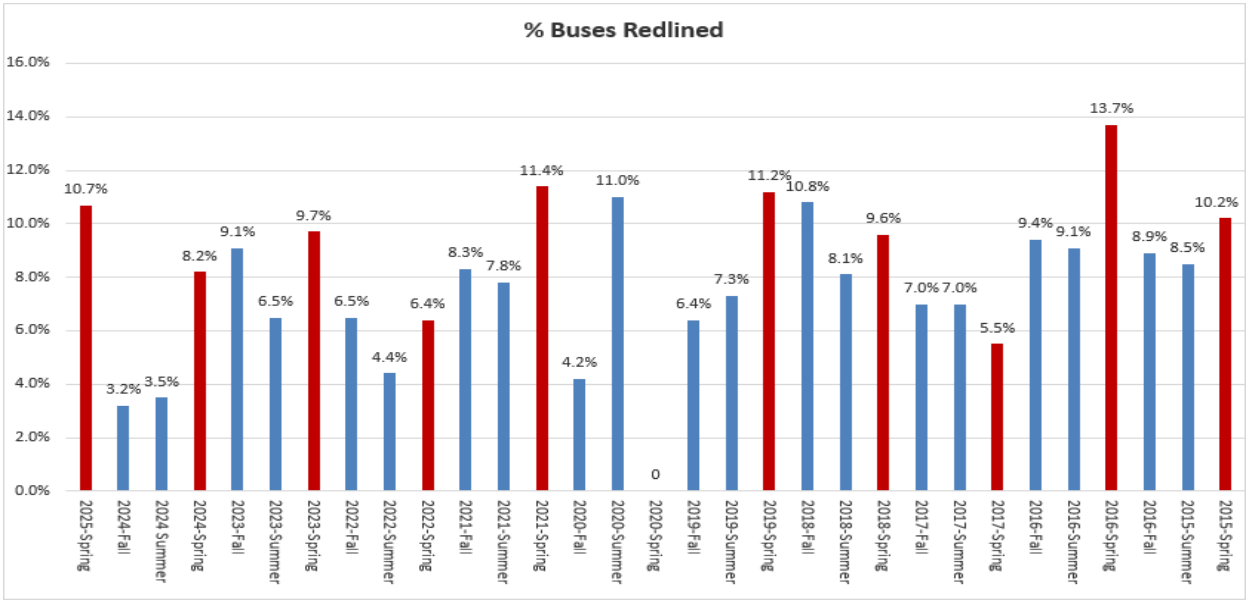
Daily Bus Inspection Results Spring 2025

	Pass		30 Day		Redline	
Inspection Location/Date	# of buses	%	# of buses	%	# of buses	%
FSKHS- Tuesday, March 18	35	85.4%	5	12.2%	1	2.4%
CHS- Wednesday, March 19	44	66.7%	17	25.8%	5	7.6%
WMHS- Thursday, March 20	41	65.1%	16	25.4%	6	9.5%
MVHS- Tuesday, March 25	36	62.1%	11	19.0%	11	19.0%
WMHS Wednesday, March 26	39	73.6%	7	13.2%	7	13.2%
Total	195	69.4%	56	19.9%	30	10.7%

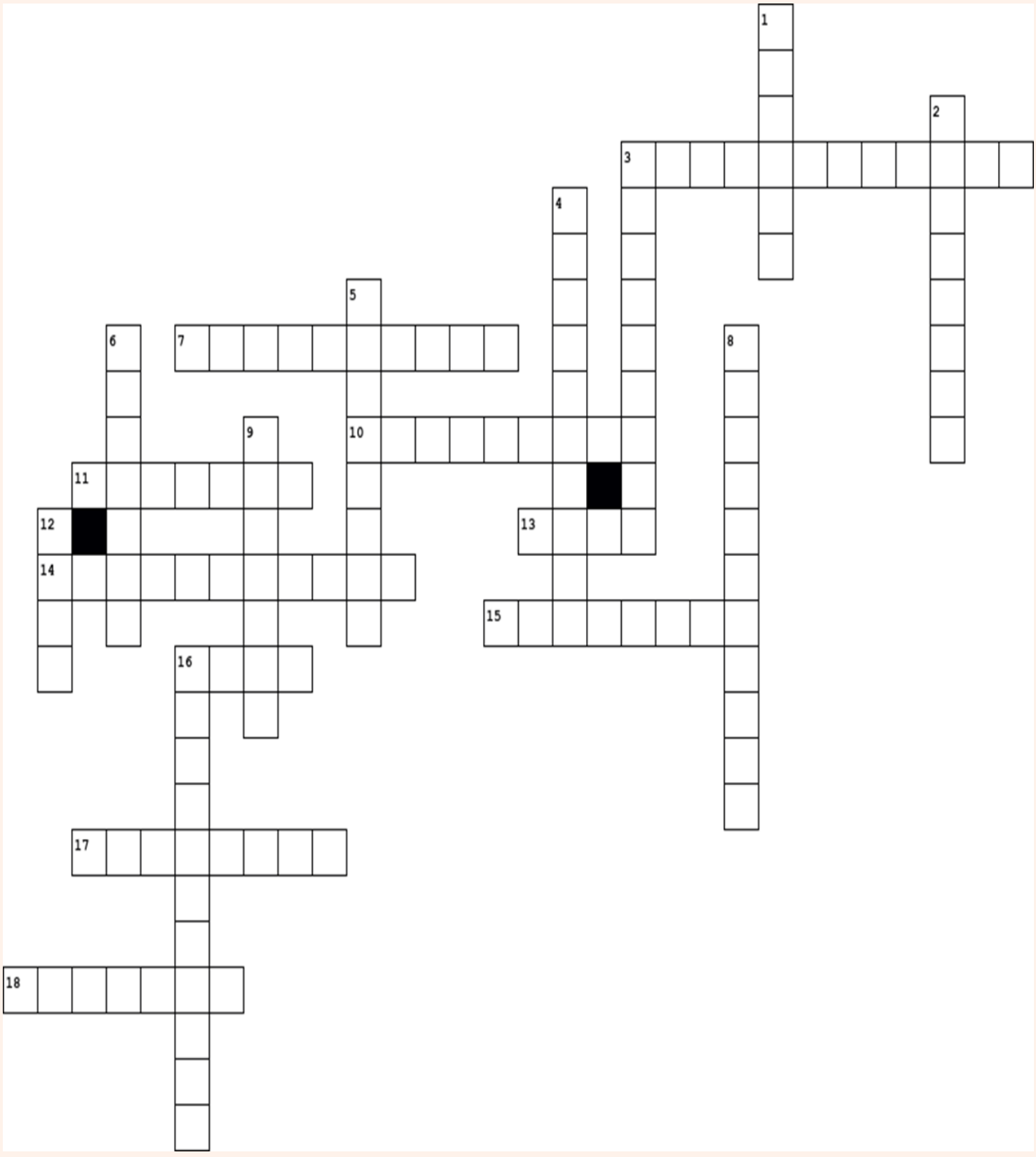
The historical results charts below highlight the last ten years of results comparing buses that pass, buses with 30-day defects and buses with major defects:







TRANSPORTATION CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

3. An update one of these should be on each bus and given to the school.
7. This should be conducted after each run, AM and PM.
10. All drivers and assistants must attend this yearly in order to remain certified.
11. This 15-minute check of the bus should be done before the start of a route.
13. Only found on special needs buses and used to help load wheelchairs.
14. Buses practice these with their students twice a year.
15. This document is completed multiple times a year to update time and miles that a bus runs daily.
16. These students should be seated up front and must be released to a parent/guardian.
17. This is a form to document inappropriate student behavior that is submitted to the school.
18. There are multiple of these inside and outside of the bus in order to help catch fly-bys and student/driver issues.

Down

1. These are used to help buses during the ice and snow.
2. At this type of crossing a bus has a variety of steps to follow to safely cross.
3. This document is completed multiple times a year to update stops being used and the number of students at each stop.
4. Student in _____, once referred to as homeless students, have the ability to ride the bus to their homeschool.
5. In the event of one of these, a driver should immediately call 911 and TSD (depending on severity).
6. This type of stop is performed on high-speed roads where there is a solid white line and at least 8 1/2 feet of shoulder.
8. Three of these are performed by TSD each year on every bus in the fleet.
9. A driver should alert TSD if they are going to be more than _____ minutes late.
12. Some special needs student require this piece of equipment to help keep them safe and in their seat.
16. Having 2 of this type of accident, along with appreciable damage within 24 months would lead to decertification.

SEE PAGE 15 FOR ANSWERS

Farewell to Scott Parsons

Scott Parsons will be retiring from Carroll County Public Schools on July 1, 2025. Scott has been with the Transportation Services Department for the past 12 years, serving as the Transportation Area Supervisor for the Westminster area schools and most recently as a Transportation Analyst/Planner. Scott spent his first 12 years with CCPS as a math teacher at South Carroll High School and West Middle School. Prior to coming to Carroll County Public Schools, Scott worked 15 years as an Operations Supervisor for LSG SkyChefs at various airports throughout the United States. We will greatly miss Scott's contributions to the department and wish him well. To quote what Scott most often says to his co-workers at the end of each day:

"THANKS FOR COMING."

Best wishes in your retirement, Scott.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Please welcome our newest staff member, Caleb Yirdaw, to the Transportation team.

As Scott Parsons turns over his duties, we are sad to see him go, but we are equally excited to welcome Caleb Yirdaw to our team. Caleb started in April, as a Transportation Analyst/Planner supporting the Westminster area.

Caleb was born in New York City and moved to the Del-Mar-Va area in 2009. He attended Northern Virginia Community College earning an Associates in Business Administration, and George Mason University for a Bachelor's in Business Management. Caleb currently lives in Frederick and is relatively new to the Carroll County School System.

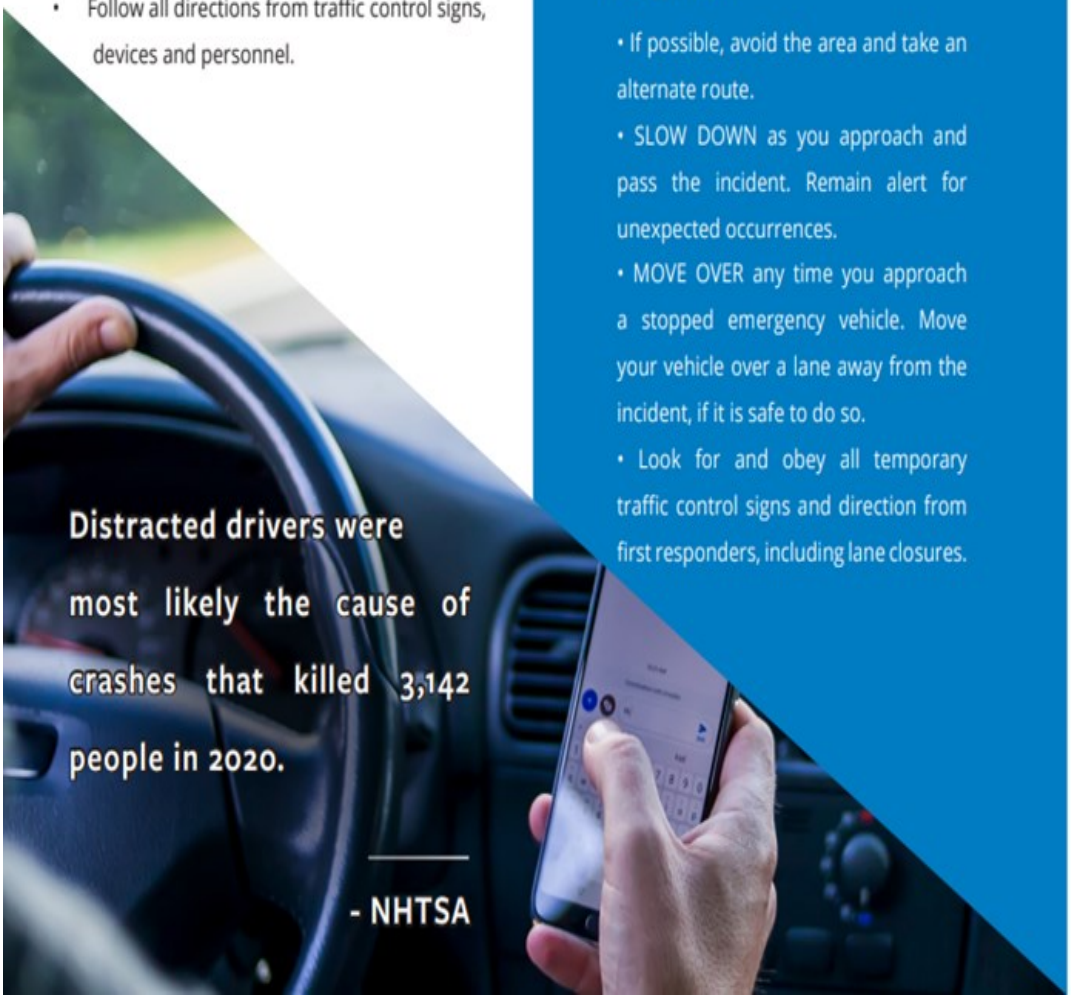
Caleb began his career in higher education working with George Mason University students in 2017. He then moved to Louisville, Kentucky as an Admissions Counselor and moved again to Baltimore, Maryland to continue a career in admissions as a Recruiter and Advisor. Caleb then moved to Carroll County as a Data Management Reporting Coordinator before deciding to join the Transportation Team. Caleb is looking forward to learning the operations and technology behind tansportation operations.

Some of Caleb's favorite things to do involve hiking, traveling, reading anything on business, and being an involved uncle to his many nieces and nephews.

Don't Drive Distracted

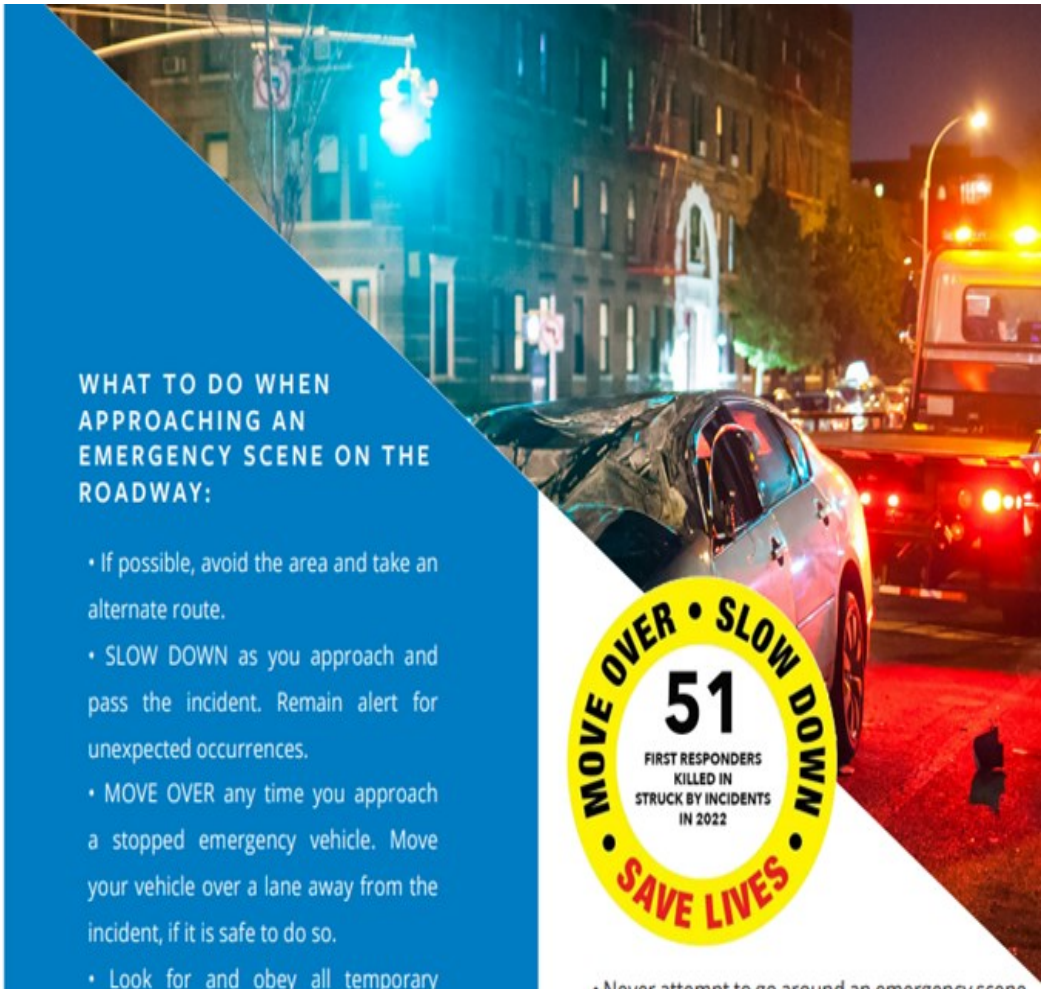
Steps to prevent distracted driving:

- Put down your phone. Don't call, text, take photos or live stream.
- Eyes on the road. Hands on the wheel. Mind on the traffic.
- Move Over, Slow Down for stopped emergency vehicles.
- Follow all directions from traffic control signs, devices and personnel.



WHAT TO DO WHEN APPROACHING AN EMERGENCY SCENE ON THE ROADWAY:

- If possible, avoid the area and take an alternate route.
- SLOW DOWN as you approach and pass the incident. Remain alert for unexpected occurrences.
- MOVE OVER any time you approach a stopped emergency vehicle. Move your vehicle over a lane away from the incident, if it is safe to do so.
- Look for and obey all temporary traffic control signs and direction from first responders, including lane closures.



- Never attempt to go around an emergency scene on the shoulder, drive through it, or turn around to avoid it or the traffic queue. These actions put you, other motorists, and first responders at risk of serious injury or death.
- Do not take photos or video of the incident as you pass it and do not post on social media. This distracts you from driving, which may cause a crash.
- Remain alert, even if you must sit in traffic.

DISTRACTED DRIVING: DID YOU KNOW?

OVER 10,000

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration completed a study indicating that more than 10,000 people are killed by distracted driving each year

3X HIGHER

The fatal crash rate for teens is 3X more than that of adults

OVER 80%

More than 80% of teens seeing an EndDD.org presentation have parents or caregivers who drive distracted

www.EndDD.org
info@EndDD.org
215.735.3716

EndDD.ORG
End Distracted Driving

WHY YOU SHOULD GIVE UP DISTRACTED DRIVING

YOUR CHILDRENS' INEXPERIENCE PUTS THEM AT RISK FOR BEING IN A CRASH.
No matter how often you tell them not to drive distracted if they see you driving distracted they will drive distracted.

MOST DRIVERS NOW VIEW DISTRACTED DRIVING AS SELFISH AND INCONSIDERATE.
Not only is texting and driving not cool, it is also not consistent with your personal values, is it?

SO, YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE A GREAT MULTI-TASKER, YOUR TEXT IS IMPORTANT AND WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW SECONDS, AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN IN A CRASH WHILE DRIVING DISTRACTED.

At EndDD.org, we have worked with many drivers who relied on these excuses and killed or crippled others. They come to us from courts to complete their community service hours. Just like you, none had yet been in a crash.

TIPS TO AVOID DISTRACTED DRIVING:

USE "DO NOT DISTURB WHILE DRIVING" MODE
To avoid the temptation, keep your phone on "do not disturb while driving" (DNDWD) mode.

AVOID EATING WHILE DRIVING
That burger can wait - eating and driving is just as bad as drinking and driving; don't do it.

DO YOUR GROOMING BEFORE DRIVING
The few seconds it takes to apply lipstick or shave are a few seconds too many to be driving distracted on the road.

SECURE PETS AND KIDS
Car seats, booster seats, and seat belts go a long way towards keeping everyone safe.

AVOID MULTITASKING
Wait until you finish driving to text or call, sip your iced latte, change your music, or reach into the back seat.

SPRING BUS INSPECTION RESULTS

The MVA provided the Transportation Services Department with a summary of results listed by contractor. Each contractor received an e-mail with a summary of results. We will continue to access these performance results as we move forward. For contractors whose results were noted as satisfactory, please continue to maintain a safe, clean fleet. For contractors whose performance needed improvement, use the spring and summer to make required repairs and to work on improving your fleet. ***Improvement will be expected.*** We look forward to seeing you at the summer bus inspection. The 2025-2026 inspection schedule is highlighted below:

Carroll County Public Schools Transportation Services Department
2025-2026 Bus Inspection Schedule

August

18 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
19 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
20 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
21 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High

November

5 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
6 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.) Winters Mill High
12 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
13 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High
14 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) Century High
18 Fall Bus Inspection Inclement Weather Make-up Day (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)

March

24 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High
25 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Manchester Valley
26 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) High Century High
31 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High

April

1 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
8 Spring Bus Inspection Inclement Weather Makeup Day (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.)

Special Needs Transportation

During the month of April, we recognize and celebrate World Autism Month. Autism spectrum disorder can present itself in many diverse ways, and it is important that we take the time to understand how we can best serve those in our care. Students should always expect and deserve our patience, kindness and respect.

What is Autism?

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 31 children and 1 in 45 adults in the United States today.

The greatest tool we have at our disposal is our empathy. When we intentionally make the effort to recognize and work to understand the perspective and feelings of our students, we will inevitably create a safe and welcoming environment on our buses. Additionally, if there are ever questions or concerns regarding best practices or approaches with specific students, please reach out to your area supervisor. We can then coordinate with school-based staff to provide beneficial information and resources.

Source: www.autismspeaks.org/world-autism-month

autism speaks®

Carroll County Public Schools 2025 – 2026 Transportation Services Calendar

August
18 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Century High
19 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
20 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Winters Mill High
21 Summer Bus Inspection (7:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Manchester Valley High

Contractors' Meeting Thursday, August 21st—2:00 pm

September
1 Schools/Offices Closed
2 Schools Open – First Day for Students
5 Regular Education Stop Sheets, Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services

26 Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services

October
17 Schools Closed for Students — Professional Development/Meeting Day
31 Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services

November
4 End of Marking Period; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal/System-wide; Closed for Prep Students*
5 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
6 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High
12 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
13 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High
14 Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) Century High
18 Fall Bus Inspection Inclement Weather Make-up Day (8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)
26 Schools/Offices Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Closed for Prep Students*
27-28 Schools/Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

December
1 Schools Offices Re-open
23 Schools/Offices Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Closed for Prep Students*
24-31 Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday

January
1-2 Schools/Offices Closed – New Year's Day
5 Schools/Offices Re-open
9 Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
19 Schools/Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
26 End of Marking Period; Schools Closed for Students

February
16 Schools/Offices Closed – Presidents' Day

March
6 Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests; Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
16 Schools Closed for Students
24 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High
25 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) Century High
26 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Manchester Valley High
31 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.) Winters Mill High

April
1 Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) Francis Scott Key High
2-7 Schools/Offices Closed – Spring Break
8 Schools/Offices Reopen/Spring Bus Inspection Inclement Weather Makeup Day (8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.)
9 End of Marking Period; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal/System Wide; Closed for Prep Students*

May
25 Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day

June
12* Last Day for Students; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Closed for Prep Students*

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS AND ASSISTANTS CALENDAR 2025-2026

This calendar represents the school work year for school bus drivers and assistants. Because there is some variation in program times, dates and special transportation requirements, some individual calendar considerations may be necessary. These variances shall be arranged through the Director of Transportation Services.

NUMBER OF STUDENT DAYS IN CALENDAR

MONTH	DAYS
AUGUST	0
SEPTEMBER	21
OCTOBER	22
NOVEMBER	18
DECEMBER	17
JANUARY	18
FEBRUARY	19
MARCH	21
APRIL	18
MAY	20
JUNE	10
	- 4*
	180

*EMERGENCY CLOSING DAYS:

If any of four emergency closing days are not used the last day for students/staff are as listed below:

One day not used-last student/teacher day is June 11th

Two days not used-last student/teacher day is June 10th

Three days not used-last student/teacher day is June 9th

Four days not used-last student/teacher day is June 8th

In the event that the school year is shortened due to unused emergency closing days, the last student day will be a two-hour and forty-five minutes early dismissal.

*In the event a delayed opening occurs on a scheduled early dismissal day, that day will be converted to a normal dismissal time in lieu of closing.

CONSENT AND RELEASE

Permission to Photograph, Videotape or Audiotape

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video or a photograph, or on the school or school system website or social media, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website or social media by the school system unless such notification is received.

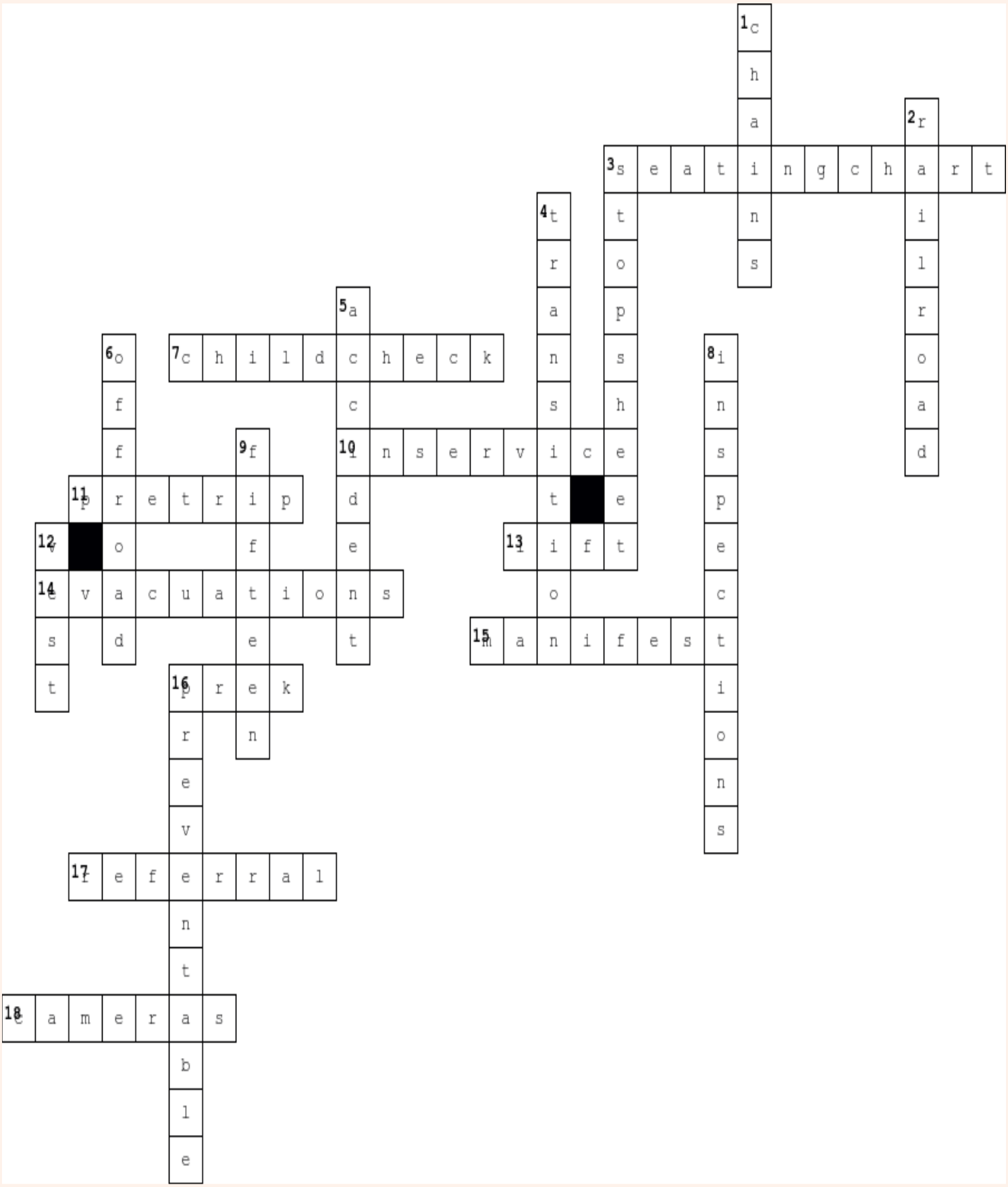
There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites, social media, or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites, social media, or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites, social media, or in publications unless such notification is received.

CG/bb
Revised 6/30/17

ANSWER KEY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