cms Transportation

As The Wheel Turns
Transportation Newsletter

cms Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Dear Team,

As we enter May and begin the final countdown to the end of the school year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to our students and community. The finish line is on the horizon— let's keep pushing.

Safety First
As we head into the final stretch, safety remains our top priority. Please continue to conduct your pre- and post-trip inspections thoroughly, follow all loading and unloading procedures, and stay alert on the road at all times. End-of-year excitement is real — for students and adults alike — so let's stay sharp and ensure every student arrives and returns home safely, every single day.

On-Time Arrival
With assessments and end-of-year testing underway, consistent on-time arrival matters more than ever. Continue to model punctuality and reliability for the success of all students.

Intent to Return / Transfer
A friendly reminder that Intent to Return/Transfer forms are due by May 29. If you've already submitted yours — thank you! If not, please make it a priority so we can plan appropriately for the upcoming school year.

District Road-EO — Let's Celebrate!
Mark your calendars for May 21! Join us as we come together to celebrate our eight drivers pursuing a spot in the next round at the state competition. It's always a great time — we hope to see you there. Click Here for additional information.

The work you do every day makes a difference — let's carry that same energy all the way to the finish line.

Creating Endless Possibilities One Stop at a Time

Mr. Vec Dunn
Executive Director of Transportation
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

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Transportation Plan of Action: Safety + Accountability

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Phase 1 – Immediate Safety & Accountability

Student Seating:

- All Pre-K thru first grade students will be seated in the first five rows of the bus.

Check-In/Check-Out (Driver Responsibilities):

- Drivers will be in their seats and ready for students to board.
- Drivers will check students off as they are received from school staff during dismissal, ensuring that the student is on the correct bus.
- Drivers will re-check students as they disembark at their assigned stops, ensuring that the student is at the correct location.

Seating Charts:

- An assigned seating chart will be on the bus and on file in the area office. This chart will be updated throughout the school year to ensure the correct students are on the correct bus.

Route Substitutes:

- Any substitute driver/driver covering an extra run will receive proper route instructions (TD-25) and a student list before leaving the school.

Uncertain Drop-Offs:

- When unsure of a student's stop location, drivers will radio the transportation office for guidance. When in doubt, the driver will return the student to their school's administrator or designee.

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Transportation Plan of Action: Enhanced ID + Badges

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Phase 2 – Enhanced Identification & Badges

Student Badges:

- Transportation will collaborate with CMS Graphic Productions to create tags for all Pre-K thru first grade students.
    - Tags will include: Student Name, Grade, and Bus Stop Location.

Distribution & Badging:

- Transportation will distribute badges to schools for students in Pre-K through first grade Dec. 1 thru Dec 3.
- Schools will attach badges to student book bags. Schools should have each student badge attached by Dec. 4 thru Dec. 5.
- Badges will be easily identifiable and accessible for drivers to view and verify information.

Daily Walk-Out During Dismissal (Phase II is now live as of Dec. 8, 2025)

- Schools will walk students to the bus each day, and the driver will follow the safety steps outlined by CMS Transportation in Phase 1 (Check-In/Out Driver Responsibilities).

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SPOTLIGHT ON TRANSPORTATION STAFF

CONGRATS

On April 2, 2026 We hosted out Local Transportation Road-Eo. Please join us in congratulating our very own Bus ROADEO champions! They showed up, showed out, and proudly represented Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Transportation with exceptional skill, precision, and professionalism. We couldn't be prouder of their outstanding achievement.

Bus Drivers Winners Photo (left to right):
Ivan Arteta Gomez (1st place) - Olympic; Christine Guy (2nd Place) - Metro ; Delvico Dunn (Executive Director); LaPaul Wilson (3rd Place) - Myers Park

Tech Winners Photo (left to right):
Danny Reed (DPI School Transportation Consultant) ; Delvico Dunn (Executive Director), Micheal Davis (Admin); Cody Robins (1st Place); Robert Bess (2nd Place) Lemual Roberts (Operations Director)

District Qualifying Winners Photo (left to right):
Ivan Arteta Gomez, Licoatus DeBerry, Christine Guy, LaPaul Wilson, Norveletta Medlin , Jose Guzman, Miko Howard

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YOU'RE INVITED TO

DISTRICT ROADEO

MAY 21, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Address:
4400 Northpointe Industrial Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28216

Rep Your Area & Show Your Team Spirit!
Bring the pride, creativity, and energy as we kick off the "Rep Your Area" Competition.

Dress it up, show out, and represent your team loud and proud!

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NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN CMS TRANSPORTATION

As our department continues to grow and expand, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to maximize our mission and vision! Our commitment to serving the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools community remains unwavering, and we are excited to announce new job openings that reflect our growth. Openings include:

- Bus Driver | Responsible for driving a school bus to provide safe, efficient, and on-time transportation of CMS students to and from assigned schools on a daily basis.

- Technician, Transportation Operations (Harding/West Meck Coordinator) | The technician, transportation operations, under general supervision, performs clerical work with minimal decision-making discretion related to the daily coordination and operation of assigned transportation area including communicating with stakeholders and maintaining records. Employee performs district-level work to carry out Board of Education policies under the direction of the Transportation Area Manager.

- Lead Bus Driver | The lead bus driver, under general supervision, performs support work with minimal decision-making discretion in the coordination and guidance of assigned bus drivers and school buses. Position is responsible for communicating with assigned bus drivers including relaying critical information. Position is also responsible for driving a school bus (as needed) to provide safe, efficient, and on-time transportation for students to and from assigned schools on a daily basis. Employee performs district-level work to carry out Board of Education policies under the direction of the Manager, Area Transportation.

- Supervisor, Transportation Maintenance Services | The transportation maintenance services supervisor, under intermittent supervision, performs supervisory work with limited decision-making discretion managing the vehicular maintenance program at assigned transportation staging site. Position supervises all servicing, scheduled maintenance, fueling, inspections, and minor repairs. Employee performs district-level work to carry out Board of Education policies under the direction of the Assistant Director of Fleet Services.

- Technician II | The Transportation Technician II, under general supervision, performs skill-based work with minimal decision-making discretion operating, maintaining, and repairing buses and other vehicles in the school transportation program. Position is responsible for troubleshooting and resolving problems of varied complexity with little assistance. Employee performs district-level work to carry-out Board of Education policies under the direction of the Transportation Maintenance Services Supervisor.

- Transportation Technician I | The Transportation Technician I, under general supervision, performs skill-based work with minimal decision-making discretion performing routine preventative maintenance on vehicular equipment including gasoline and diesel-driven vehicles to maintain a safe and economical fleet. This position will be directly responsible for fueling buses and the upkeep of tires on buses. Employee performs district-level work to carry-out Board of Education policies under the direction of the Transportation Maintenance Services Supervisor.

- Director, Fleet | The director of fleet services, under minimal supervision, performs senior-level work with considerable decision-making discretion to ensure safe, efficient, and economical maintenance of district vehicles including school buses, activity buses, and fleet vehicles. This position is responsible for ensuring compliance with all aspects of preventive maintenance and safety regulations. Employee performs district-level work to carry out Board of Education policies under the direction of the executive director of transportation.

To learn more about open positions, please visit cmsk12.org/careers to learn more, apply, and share with your networks! (Links will remain active until the position closes).

MEET SHENEQUA THOMAS
CRC, LCMHC, LPC

CMS Transportation has partnered with Atrium Health to provide social and emotional well-being support to all Transportation employees. This service, whether virtual or in-person, will be available at no cost for all transportation area offices and central office support staff.

We understand the importance of mental health, and this partnership is a significant step toward ensuring the well-being of our CMS Transportation family. **Learn more about the offerings here.**

What concerns can the behavioral health services address?

You are encouraged to contact the behavioral health provider for whatever may be causing you any level of emotional distress. Feel free to reach out to discuss any of the following: Relationship and parenting issues, overcoming feelings of being stuck, developing coping strategies, goal setting and making action plans, anger, grief and stress, anxiety and depressed mood, substance use and additions, managing life's changes.
To schedule an appointment, call **704-275-1666.**

Shenequa Thomas, a Winston-Salem State University graduate with a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. With over a decade of experience in mental health, wellness, and community leadership & advocacy, she is dedicated to making a positive impact. Shenequa has experience in providing individual, couples, and group therapy to diverse populations.

On-Site Schedule:

- Mondays: 3901 Craig Avenue
- Tuesdays: 3101 Wilkinson Boulevard
- Wednesdays: 11751 Downs Road
- Thursdays: 4400 Northpointe Boulevard
- Fridays: 6520 Orr Road

2025–2026 WILDLY IMPORTANT GOALS

1. **Maintain or exceed an on-time arrival average of 93–95% in the morning, and 88–89% in the afternoon.**

2. **Decrease the annual DPI inspection score to 40–42 points.**

3. **Achieve a 3% increase in new hires and reduce separations by 3% year-over-year.**

4. **Install and implement a new GPS system by August 2026.**

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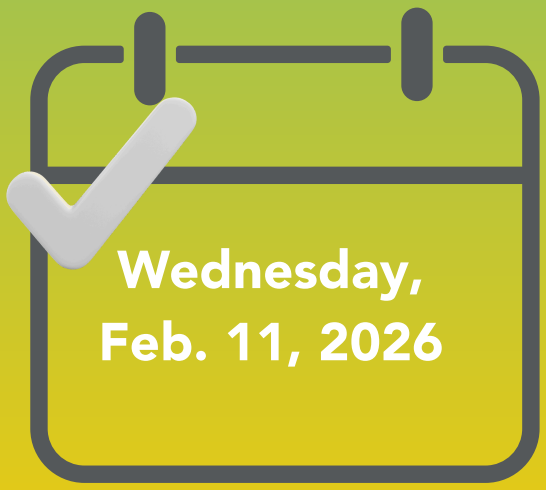
2025–2026 Early Release Dates

Early release days provide staff with additional time to participate in professional development workshops. These workshops can enhance instructional knowledge and skills, improving student learning.
Schools will dismiss three hours earlier than their normal time, and buses will drop students off three hours earlier than their usual time.

2025–2026 Early Release Dates



****Reminder: April 29th will be a full instructional day for all students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. This date was originally an early release day.**

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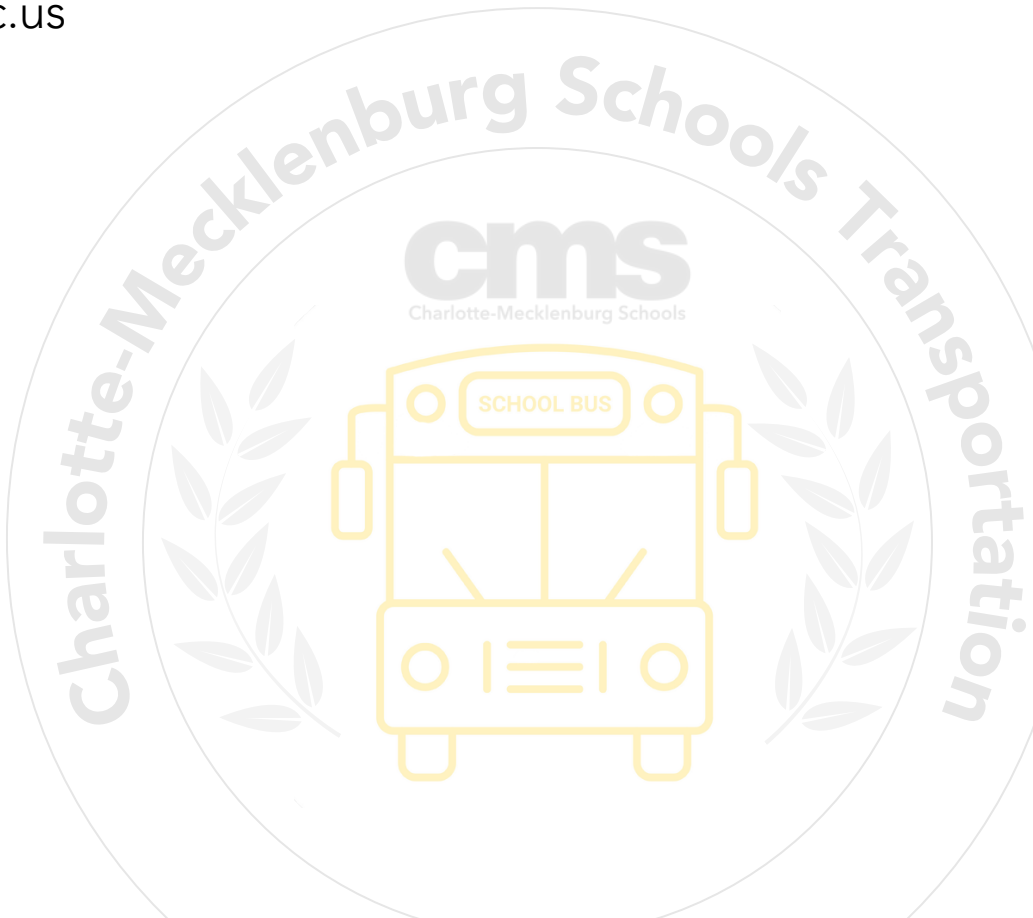
MAY CALENDAR UPDATES

May 25: Holiday

SUMBIT YOUR NEWS AND UPDATES!

Want to be featured in the CMS Transportation Newsletter?

Email Ebony Wise for more details and information!
EbonyH.Wise@cms.k12.nc.us