

Whitehall-Coplay School District

WILLIAM P. FONZONE, Sr., *PRESIDENT*
GEORGE N. MAKHOUL, *VICE-PRESIDENT*
GEORGE E. WILLIAMS, *TREASURER*
LORIANN M. FEHNEL, *MEMBER*
PATTY D. GAUGLER, *MEMBER*
NICHOLE L. HARTMAN, D.N.P., *MEMBER*
SETH M. KUBAT, *MEMBER*
FADY SALLOUM, *MEMBER*
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CHRISTOPHER A. SCHIFFERT,
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BUSINESS MANAGER
SHERRY L. HOLUB, ED. D.,
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

Dear Parents and Guardians of Charter School Students,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are writing to share an important update regarding our student transportation policy.

In order to optimize our resources and ensure sustainable transit options, Charter School students will no longer be provided with Whitehall-Coplay School District transportation (yellow bus) for students who are 12 years of age or older. Instead, the school district will fully sponsor and provide a paid transit pass for LANTA (Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority) public bus services to all eligible students in this age group. These passes will allow your child to travel to and from school each day at no cost to your family.

Please note that this adjustment is made in strict accordance with [Whitehall-Coplay School District Policy 140 \(Charter Schools\)](#) and **Section 1726-A of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (24 P.S. § 1726-A)**. While the district is committed to fulfilling its obligation to provide free transportation to resident charter school students, both state law and Policy 140 explicitly state that "transportation provided to charter school students need not be identical to transportation provided to traditional public school students." Utilizing LANTA public transit passes for our older student population allows us to meet these legal distance requirements effectively and sustainably.

We understand that transitioning to public transit may be a new experience for many of our families. LANTA offers safe, reliable, and well-established routes throughout our community. To help ensure a smooth and confident transition for your student, we recommend taking the following steps before the first day of school:

- **Plan the Route:** Review LANTA's routes and schedules with your child to identify the best bus stops and times for their daily commute. You can use Google Maps to help with this process.
- **Practice the Commute:** If possible, take a trial ride with your student on their specific route so they become familiar with the stops and timing.
- **Download the App:** LANTA offers mobile tools and real-time tracking that can help you and your student monitor bus arrivals and plan trips effectively through the "TRANSIT" app. 

Information regarding how and when to pick up your student's sponsored LANTA pass, along with guidance on finding the correct bus stop and arrival times for your child, will be sent out in a follow-up communication in the coming weeks.

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Thank you for your understanding, partnership, and adaptability as we implement this new program. Our priority remains ensuring that all students arrive at school safely and ready to learn each day. If you have any immediate questions or specific concerns regarding your child's commute, please do not hesitate to contact our transportation office. Additionally, should you decide that this transit arrangement does not suit your family's needs and would rather your student utilize traditional school district transport, please contact Michelle Khouri (khourim@whitehallcoplay.org) to enroll your child at WCSD.

Thank you,

Whitehall Coplay School District Administration