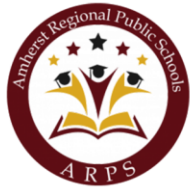


AMHERST, PELHAM, & AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Greetings Amherst, Pelham, and Amherst-Pelham Regional School Communities,

I want to begin by apologizing for the disruption and uncertainty some families have experienced with transportation this school year.

Reliable school transportation is about more than moving students from one place to another. It is an important part of providing equitable access to instruction by helping ensure that students, especially those who live farthest from school, can arrive safely, on time, and ready to learn.

This school year began with new routes and a driver shortage. Both have affected our ability to get every student to school on time. The District's Transportation Department and our transportation provider have been meeting daily to review routes, address concerns, and improve service.

To make these changes carefully, we will introduce the updated routes in stages.

Transportation Timeline

- **October 9, 2026:** Draft routes will be released with a survey for families to share feedback and concerns.
- **October 14, 2026:** The family survey will close. Feedback will be reviewed as the routes are finalized.
- **By October 16, 2026:** Drivers will complete a dry run of all routes without students. This will help us check travel times, stops, safety, and route efficiency.
- **October 19, 2026:** The updated routes will begin.

What Families May See

- Our first priority is developing routes that transport students safely and reliably to and from school.
- Some students who live within 1.5 miles of their school may be assigned to centralized pickup and drop-off locations.
- Some door-to-door stops may change as routes are combined or adjusted.
- Routes and bus assignments will prioritize students who rely on transportation between their home address and school.

- Temporary or short-term transportation changes, such as riding to a friend's home, using a different bus for an after-school activity, or changing buses on different days, may not be available.
- We will align transportation practices more closely with District policy so that students are on the correct buses and seats remain available for eligible riders who depend on transportation to and from their homes.
- Transportation required through a student's individualized plan or other legally required accommodation will continue to be provided.

How Families Can Help

When the draft routes are released, please review your student's route and complete the survey if you have a concern. All feedback will be considered alongside safety, bus capacity, driver availability, travel time, and District policy. While we may not be able to accommodate every request, the information families provide will help us identify concerns before the new routes begin.

We know that transportation changes affect family schedules and daily routines. Our goal is to create a safer, clearer, and more reliable transportation system that gets students to school on time and protects their access to learning.

We will continue sharing information throughout this process and will remind families before the updated routes take effect on October 19.

Thank you for your patience and partnership.

Dr. Xi
Superintendent