

# Memo



*June 17, 2026*

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Jennifer Woollends, Secretary-Treasurer  
RE: Upcoming Changes to Student Bus Transportation Routes

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## Purpose

This memorandum provides the Board with a clear overview of the District's transition to a new catchment-based bus routing model beginning in the 2026–27 school year. It outlines the rationale for the change, benefits, and impacts for families.

## Background

The District currently operates a transfer-based transportation system in which many students board more than one bus to reach their school. After reviewing operational challenges, safety considerations, and long-term sustainability, the District is implementing a direct-to-school model aligned with each student's catchment area.

## Summary of the New Model

Under the new approach, each student will ride one bus directly to and from their catchment school, with no transfers. Route planning is underway, and finalized routes, stop locations, and schedules will be communicated to families once confirmed.

## Process

- Registration is required for all students needing transportation.
- Courtesy Ride requests must be submitted separately and are not guaranteed.
- See website for forms

## Benefits

- **Simplified and predictable rides** — Students remain on one bus for the entire trip, reducing confusion.
- **Elimination of transfer-related risks** — Removes wait times at other schools; forgetting transfer bus number.
- **Reduced travel time** — Eliminates transfer wait times and mid-route transfer stops.
- **Improved safety and supervision** — Students remain under the care of a single driver.
- **More efficient use of resources** — Supports long-term sustainability of the transportation program.
- **Greater route reliability** — Routes are tied directly to catchment areas rather than dependent on connecting schedules.
- **Reduced route disruption** — As routes will be independent from each other, disruption of one route will not impact other routes.

### Impacts to Families

Families should be aware of the following requirements and potential changes:

- **Route details are pending** — Stop locations, pick-up/drop-off times, and bus assignments will be shared once planning is complete.
- **Stops or times may change** — Due to catchment-based routing.
- **Some stops may move to main corridor roads** — Where there are logistical challenges.
- **Catchment transportation** — Provided where possible to/from the primary address and catchment school; all other requests require a Courtesy Ride request application.
- **Out-of-catchment transportation** — Families are responsible for transportation to/from non-catchment schools.
- **Courtesy Rides depend on space and route capability** — No new stops will be added for courtesy requests.

### Key Dates & Milestones

Transportation Registration Form	Due by June 30
Courtesy Ride Request Form	Due by June 30
Courtesy Ride Decisions Communicated	By August 14

### Next Steps

- Communicate registration requirements and deadlines to families through District channels.
- Finalize bus routes, stops, and schedules.
- Review Courtesy Ride requests and notify families of decisions by August 14.
- Provide confirmed route, stop, and bus assignment information to registered families prior to the start of the school year.

### Conclusion

The transition from a transfer-based, multi-bus model to a catchment-based, single-bus model is expected to improve safety, efficiency, and reliability for students and families. Staff will continue to refine routes and support families through the transition. The Transportation Department is available to provide additional information or respond to Board questions.



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Jennifer Woollends  
Secretary-Treasurer