

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2013-2014

1. Drivers are continually hired and trained for positions as sub-drivers and eventually full-time drivers. Approximately 35 to 40 hours are spent training each individual. Due to unforeseen circumstances we have started the school year off with an unusually short sub driver list. We have, however, been able to hire additional drivers that are being trained.
2. In reference to the training that we afford our drivers each year, we organize at least 4 structured informational meetings per school year. Each meeting ranges in length anywhere from 2-4 hrs. Front and back door evacuation drills are held each year, one during first semester and the other during second semester. It is typical that we have an outside speaker come in for at least one of these meetings. During the 2012-2013 school year we had Gina Crump with the "ZoeBus" come and present a program on "Staying one Step Ahead of Bullying". We followed that up with district wide elementary education on bus behavior and safety at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. Gina visited the outlying schools as well. She presented her program to Dogwood, Hawthorn and Oakridge. All elementary students went through this presentation, whether or not they ride a bus.
3. Our bus fleet has been serviced and inspected over the summer months, and is up and running for the 2013-2014 school year.
4. There were eight new buses purchased this year for the fleet. At this time, over half our fleet has over 100,000 miles per bus. This is going to increase our supply and repair budget yearly. I will continue to stress the importance of keeping a rotation schedule on our bus fleet.
5. We would like to continue receiving the Total Fleet Excellence Award. We have recently received our fifteenth consecutive year of the Fleet Excellence Award at the Missouri Association of Pupil Transportation convention. Over the summer we received our certificates showing our 100% at the M.A.P.T. convention.
6. Just in the last few weeks an electronic gate has been installed at the entrance of the bus yard. This will hopefully make this area more secure.
7. We believe there are several contributing factors (i.e. fuel costs, economic pressures) that have increased the number of students riding buses. An additional route was added this year to alleviate overcrowding on several of the in town routes, which created a realignment of those in town routes.
8. In addition to the regular routes we maintain and oversee several ancillary routes to include Early Childhood, Capstone, Project Pass, On and Off Campus Shuttles, Mini Trips, Activity Trips, Overnight Trips, district suburban usage and collaborating with the Band Boosters to accommodate the transporting of the chuck wagon for band competitions several times throughout the year.

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9. We are already working on the development of the transportation plan for the new school in Osage Beach. This will also include parking maneuverability and ease and safety of loading and unloading of the students at both Osage Beach and Hurricane Deck Schools.

10. Our office staff has been kept quite busy with updating rosters and overseeing student count for efficiency. Our office has also been given a task from PEERS to track all hours for all drivers and what they spend those hours doing (i.e. Reg. Routes and all of the ancillary routes listed above). This is the first full pay period for this reporting and so a determination has not been made of how time consuming this will be. The office staff did an outstanding job of recordkeeping in the 2012-2013 school year, after being better educated by the auditors. The outcome was a very successful audit for the transportation department.

11. We will continue to educate our drivers throughout the year to maintain one of the best transportation departments in the state.