

January 26, 2022

**RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION IN RESPONSE  
TO THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVER SHORTAGE**

WHEREAS, according to a joint survey conducted by the National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT), the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), and the National School Transportation Association (NTA) there is currently a nationwide shortage of school bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, due to the national school bus driver shortage, as of September, the District's bus transportation vendors began the 2021-2022 school year with only 500 of the 1,200 school bus drivers required to meet student transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, the District annually provides school bus transportation for approximately 10,000 Diverse Learners and 10,000 General Education students, and

WHEREAS, the District is required by state and federal laws to provide school bus transportation for Diverse Learners whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan require transportation and for Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS). Further, state law requires the District to provide access to transportation to low income students enrolled in magnet or selective enrollment schools/programs; and

WHEREAS, the Admissions Policy for Magnet, Selective Enrollment and Other Options for Knowledge Schools and Programs (Magnet Policy) (Board Report 17-0426-PO2) outlines how the District will provide school bus transportation for various Options for Knowledge schools and programs; and

WHEREAS, despite adding new transportation vendors and routes and offering financial assistance to families who have used alternatives to District-provided transportation, the District has been unable to secure enough school bus drivers to meet all of the District's transportation needs and must prioritize transportation for students legally entitled to transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to meeting the transportation needs of its most vulnerable students and complying with all of the District's legal obligations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. If by February 28, 2022 transportation has not been supplied to the remaining IEP and 504 students who have not yet been routed, the District will reroute some or all students as necessary, temporarily waiving the transportation provision with respect to magnet, selective enrollment or other Options for Knowledge schools and programs required by the Magnet Policy, Sect. X (2) through the end of the 2021-2022 school year, in addition to any other General Education students currently receiving bus transportation, hereafter "general education students."

2. The Transportation Department must then reroute transportation for students in the following order:
  - A. Diverse Learners with an IEP or 504 plan requiring transportation and Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS) who have not accepted financial assistance.
  - B. After all students referenced in section A are routed, then the District may, depending on availability, assign transportation routing for diverse learners with an IEP or 504 plan requiring transportation and STLS who have accepted the District's financial assistance for transportation, should they choose to be routed instead of receiving financial assistance.
  - C. After all students in section A and B are routed, the District may, depending on availability, assign transportation routing for General Education Students enrolled in Magnet, Selective Enrollment or other Options for Knowledge schools and programs on the basis of income in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-18(7).
  - D. Priorities A, B, and C are all determined by federal and/or state law. After students referenced in section A, B, and C are routed, the District may, depending on availability, assign transportation to all other General Education Students enrolled in Magnet, Selective Enrollment or other Options for Knowledge schools and programs. In doing so, Management may consider prioritizing any remaining availability based on safety needs as determined by the Office of Safety and Security and any other Board Policies.
3. If transportation cannot be provided to all students in section 2(A) and 2(B), students with IEPs and 504 plans and STLS requiring transportation by February 28, 2022, this change will go into effect no later than March 7, 2022.
4. If transportation is not available for all students, the District will offer financial assistance to parents of general education students impacted by the transportation suspension. The District will offer \$1,000 up front and then \$500 a month commencing in March 2022 through the end of the school year.
5. The Chief Executive Office must conduct a review of all Board Rules and Policies that impact transportation and recommend to the Board at the February 23, 2022 Board Meeting, necessary amendments to its rules and policies to reflect the priorities in paragraph 2 of this Resolution prior to notification of school acceptances through the GoCPS process in Spring 2022.
6. By the February 23, 2022 Board Meeting and every month thereafter through the end of the 2021-2022 school year, the District must provide the Board the status of the compensatory education meetings held for students with IEPs who receive transportation but did not have a route as of the first day of the 2021-2022 school year.