



Poudre School District 2007 – 2008 Choice Busing Committee Executive Summary

Overview

Beginning in 1992, Poudre School District has provided transportation services to students on a space available basis to school locations outside their home school boundaries. Busing has also been available for students to limited educational programs at specific schools within PSD and to provide athletic opportunities to Junior High students. Those programs include: International Baccalaureate (IB), English Language Learners (ELL), Core Knowledge, junior high math 9th grade, elementary math 6th grade, and junior high athletic 9th grade shuttles. The yearly transportation costs for these programs are approximately \$118,000.

Other programs exist within Poudre School District that do not receive choice busing.

Objectives

The objectives for this committee will be to:

1. Review existing choice busing practices and clearly define choice busing and how it operates.
2. Define a fair and equitable choice busing system.
3. Define an approach to choice busing that is financially sustainable.
4. Develop recommendations for the future that could include phase-in and phase-out of program elements.

Membership

A committee will be made up of:

- Executive Director of Operations (Co-Chair)
- Director of Transportation (Co-Chair)
- principal, teacher and/or parent from IB, ELL and Core Knowledge programs
- District Advisory Board representative
- City of Fort Collins Transportation Dept. representative
- Parent representative at large
- PSD Special Services representative
- Regional representative from the community planning organizations concerned with transportation
- Citizen at large
- Business representative

Secondary School Issues

The implementation of grade configuration in 2009 will eliminate the need for representation from the junior high and elementary math, and junior high athletic shuttle programs.

Timeline

The initial goal is to complete the work in 6 months beginning with the first meeting on September 4.

Supporting Documentation

The following documents supply information relevant to the choice busing discussion.

1. C.R.S. 22-32-113; Transportation of pupils – when;

(1) The board of education of a school district may furnish transportation:

(a) To and from public schools of the district for any reasonable classification of resident pupils enrolled in the schools of the district;

(1.5) The general assembly recognizes that section 2 of article IX of the state constitution requires the establishment and maintenance of a thorough and uniform system of free public schools and requires school districts to maintain such public schools. The general assembly finds and declares, however, that the provision by school districts of transportation for pupils is not required by the constitution as a part of a thorough and uniform system of free public schools and that any school district which provides transportation may pay the costs incurred in doing so through any means authorized by the general assembly pursuant to this title.

(5) (a) The board of education of a school district that furnishes transportation to pupils pursuant to the provisions of this section may impose and collect a fee for the payment of excess transportation costs pursuant to a fee schedule adopted by a resolution of the board of education of the district.

b) For the purposes of this subsection (5), "excess transportation costs" means the current operating expenditures for pupil transportation, as defined in section 22-51-102 (1), minus any reimbursement entitlement, as defined in section 22-51-102 (4). The calculation of excess transportation costs shall be based upon amounts expended and amounts received for the twelve-month period ending on June 30 prior to the adoption of the fee schedule.

(c) If a school district imposes a fee for the transportation of pupils, the district shall waive the fee for any pupil who is eligible for a reduced-cost meal or free meal pursuant to the "National School Lunch Act", 42 U.S.C. sec. 1751 et seq.

2. Poudre School District Policy - EEA - STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The district's transportation system shall be designed to convey students who live an unreasonable walking distance from home to and from school.

The director of transportation services, with the approval of the assistant superintendent of business services, shall make all arrangements for student transportation in the school district.

To meet the transportation needs of students in the various geographical areas of the school district, the following shall be used:

1. District-owned school buses
2. Contracted vehicles

3. Parent-contracted vehicles
4. Other vehicles or methods as deemed appropriate, practical, and safe

In accordance with state law, the district may submit to the voters the question of whether to impose and collect a fee for the payment of excess transportation costs. If the fee is approved, the revenues shall be deposited in the transportation fund.

The district shall waive any transportation fee for any student eligible for reduced-price or free lunches as determined by federal regulations.

3. Poudre School District Policy - EEAA - WALKERS AND RIDERS

Students shall be provided school district or contracted transportation when they reside in excess of the following distances measured by the director of transportation services or designee:

1. Senior high: Two miles
2. Junior high: One and one-half miles
3. Elementary: One mile

Distances are measured from a student's residence to the property line of the assigned school by way of accessible roadways or adequate walkways.

Students who are attending a school other than the school in their own attendance area shall not be eligible for district transportation services.

A student with health problems may be given special transportation consideration. A written request for such consideration shall be sent by the school to the director of transportation services.

Under special circumstances such as economy or energy conservation, students in areas beyond established distance boundaries may be required to walk or provide their own transportation to school.

When unsafe walking conditions exist, the director of transportation services shall determine if district transportation should be provided.

4. Poudre School District Policy - EEAA-R - WALKERS AND RIDERS

PROCEDURES

Transportation Services operates its bus routing system according to a "full bus" policy. Special transportation requests, including those from students with a verified medical condition

requiring transportation and from students attending schools of choice, shall be handled according to the following guidelines:

1. Applications requesting special student transportation services shall be completed annually by parents/guardians and returned to Transportation Services.
2. Applications shall be processed in the order in which they are received by Transportation Services after all necessary school bus routes, bus stops, and overload adjustments for students in their home attendance boundaries have been made.
3. Applications shall be evaluated and approved on a space-available basis to ensure that all students attending schools in their home attendance boundary areas receive appropriate and adequate school bus service. Approval of an application for one school year does not guarantee approval for succeeding school years.
4. Upon approval of applications, students with special transportation requests shall be assigned to existing school bus stops on existing school bus routes. Parents/guardians shall ensure that students arrive and depart safely to and from existing school bus stops.
 - a. Additional school buses, bus routes, or bus stops shall be assigned only to accommodate students with a verified medical condition or when necessary for the district to comply with state and federal legal requirements.
 - b. If, for any reason, the assigned student load exceeds the legal passenger capacity of a school bus, students with special transportation requests will be removed to make space available for students who live in their home attendance boundary.
5. All students riding school buses shall be subject to all bus regulations and the student code of conduct