

2020-2021 Transportation Obstacles and Recommendations

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUE:

The 2020-2021 school year is going to pose significant challenges to the state required transportation of our students due to the Covid-19 virus. This document will explain the issues RUSD will have to work with and around to accomplish getting our students from home to school and school to home.

Normally, a large First Student school bus has a maximum capacity of 72 passengers. This is calculated by having three students per seat in all seats on the bus. However, due to health and safety concerns we will be required to limit seating to 2 people per seat. Which means a 72 passenger bus now can only hold 48 students. The exception is when all students in a seat are from the same household, in this case, we can seat 3 students per seat.

This will mean any bus run we had this last year that held over 48 students will require two runs to pick up and complete this year. This poses a significant challenge with both our first tier (7 am start time) schools and our second tier (8 am start time) schools. Additional busses and drivers are not available for the 2020-2021 school year..

In addition, the district will be unable to utilize the City of Racine *Ryde* system to transport our students to and from school due to the limitations of seating on their buses that would not allow for necessary safety protections. Students who may have used the city bus to get to and from school in the past will now take a school bus. This change adds further stress to the system and school routes during our first and second tier bus routes.

As a result of all of the challenges RUSD faces to safely transport students, the district has had to look at all options to ensure we can pick up and drop off students to school on time using our current First Student bus fleet. As a result of that comprehensive analysis the district is recommending changes to the start and end times of every school to ensure we can safely transport students safely to and from school.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

The forthcoming proposal will ensure to our community that students are safely transported from home to school and school to home on time.

Our proposal recommends moving four elementary schools from second tier to third tier (8 am to 9 am) and three schools from first tier to third tier (7 am to 9 am). To make these adjustments, schools were selected due to our ability to mobilize our current fleet to meet the demands of the routing needs within the area we service at the given time of need. First tier is dominated by our high schools and the second tier is dominated by our middle schools. Moving any of these schools from their current tier is not recommended. The district does not have the

resources necessary to support a time change at the K-8, middle and high schools levels due to the need for additional busses and the impact on shared resources such as shared staff.

- ❖ West Ridge, Olympia Brown, Janes, Giese Elementary Schools 2nd tier to 3rd tier.
Frees fleet capacity to service middle schools.
- ❖ Dr Jones, SC Johnson, Schulte Elementary schools 1st tier to 3rd tier.
Frees fleet capacity to service high schools

Elementary School	Old Start Time	Old Dismissal Time	New Start Time	New Dismissal Time
Dr. Jones	7:20	2:11	9:20	4:11
Janes	8:05	2:56	9:05	3:56
Giese	8:00	2:51	9:00	3:51
Olympia Brown	8:05	2:56	9:05	3:56
S.C. Johnson	7:20	2:11	9:20	4:11
Schulte	7:20	2:11	9:20	4:11
West Ridge	8:15	3:06	9:15	4:06

CONCLUSION

The Administration is working on a comprehensive approach to developing plans for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. It is likely multiple plans may be required over the course of the school year based on local health department guidelines. Critical to our ability to return to any form of face to face instruction is addressing our transportation barriers in light of new safety guidelines. Adjusting some of our elementary school times is the best option available that will enable the district to meet the needs of our community and schools to transport students on time, ensure safety and be as cost effective as possible.