

Update: Return to full bus service

Anchorage School District <noreply@asdk12.org>

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To: Anchorage School District Recipients <recipients@asdk12.parentlink.net>

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Good afternoon, ASD Families and Staff.

As you prepare to break for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend I have some good news to share!

Parallel to our rigorous academic goals for this school year, the District faces two immediate challenges - budget and bus transportation. After months of hard work from our Transportation Department, I can say with confidence the District is prepared to return to full bus service beginning Monday, December 5. The cohort system will dissolve at that time.

We have successfully onboarded 50+ new bus drivers since the start of the school year. They have answered the call and joined our team of already committed bus drivers and attendants. The recent increase in wages will pay transportation staff more competitively for the important work they do, and will help with driver retention.

We arrived at our plan to end the cohort model by reimagining transportation services. A new plan will change how routes weave together a tapestry of transportation around the Anchorage bowl. The grid bus drivers follow to criss-cross around town will become more efficient by having fuller buses.

A few things for you to know to help your family prepare for the return to full service:

- Route numbers will be different and there will be new pick-up and/or drop-off times.
- Pick-up and drop-off times for your student may be adjusted up to 10-20 minutes give or take.
- Your bus stop details will be communicated via Parent Connect starting December 1.

The new process combines routes with low ridership. With fuller buses and less buses on the road, this will improve our pick-up and drop-off schedule, improve maintenance expenses, and use less fuel in the long run.

This reimagined bus route system is step one in our long-term efficiency transportation plan. Step two is expected to launch in February 2023 with a new software system. Step three will be working with our Special Education Department to reconfigure transportation based on inclusivity.

To summarize, this is our first big step towards long term transportation solutions. Remember to check Parent Connect starting next Thursday, December 1. To stay up to date on information, please visit our [Transportation page](#) with the latest information.

Finally, I am immensely grateful to you. Our staff, students, parents, and our community for prioritizing education and collaborating to get students to school safely and on time every day.

Sincerely,

Jharrett Bryantt, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Anchorage School District

 Anchorage

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