



Alena Zachery-Ross, Superintendent
Ypsilanti Community Schools
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Dear Ypsilanti Community Schools' Families,

As many in our community may be aware, school districts nationwide are experiencing a significant shortage of school bus drivers, and Ypsilanti Community Schools is no different. Staff turnover for bus drivers, a drop in the number of individuals applying and training to be bus drivers, and the need for unique transportation services for students are impacting the YCS Transportation Department's ability to cover all routes adequately. In addition, they are affecting our ability to get your children to school.

The district's Transportation Department has been working creatively on various options to help compensate for the lack of bus drivers. Currently, all transportation staff trained in driving a school bus are called upon on a daily basis to cover routes. Similarly, our transportation office staff regularly fills in as bus drivers and monitors on our school buses.

We are intentionally sharing this information with you at this time for several reasons:

(1) I acknowledge that students are missing valuable educational instructional hours when we have transportation delays, and improvements in reliable transportation are necessary for our families. I apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced due to a lack of transportation. In addition, we are determined to improve our services for our students.

(2) **Please share with family members and friends who may be interested in training to drive a school bus or serving as bus monitors that we conduct immediate interviews.** Contact us at (734) 221-1221 for more information.

(3) If we are not able to hire and train additional bus drivers, the Transportation Department will have to combine routes and continue to cancel routes based on driver shortage and daily call-offs.

(4) Because of the shortage of drivers, there may be delays in picking up students in the morning and dropping students off after school, depending on staffing levels. Please note if we combine routes, we will continue to experience revised schedules and delayed routes.

Our goal is to continue accommodating all our students' transportation needs. The need for transportation staff forces us to deliver these services differently. We will continue to recruit additional bus drivers and monitors actively. We will keep you informed when we have to adjust how our transportation services are delivered. If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Rose, Interim Transportation Director, at (734) 221-1198.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross

Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross
Superintendent
Ypsilanti Community Schools

Stronger Together