



BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Stephen P. Puskar Superintendent

October 8, 2021

There has been a lot of news lately about the shortage of school bus drivers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Indeed, a recent survey by the Department of Education found that there are 2425 school bus driver vacancies across the state and that 235 school districts do not have enough drivers. Unfortunately, our school district is one of the school districts experiencing a shortage in drivers. We currently have two driver vacancies, and do not have substitute school bus drivers. Therefore, our bus mechanic is driving daily, and our Director of Transportation is also serving as a substitute. Often times, both of these individuals must fill in on the same day. When we can't cover all runs, we have no choice but to seek alternatives to transporting our students.

The purpose of this letter is to request that each parent/guardian consider alternatives for transporting their child(ren) and/or providing childcare in the event that we have a shortage of bus drivers and need to change our schedule(s) or temporarily shift to remote instruction.

Should we have a shortage of drivers to the extent that a run or runs are affected, we may take several steps, including:

- Communicating with all families in a general manner (OneCall notification, etc), and with the families of the affected students in a more specific manner (phone calls, etc)
- Making every effort to identify alternative transportation arrangements, which may include adjusting bus routes and rosters, and/or adjusting pick up and departure times
- Alerting our attendance personnel so that no adverse attendance coding is done as a result of an absence or tardy due to transportation issues
- Considering temporarily cancelling a route or routes where we do not have drivers
- Deciding, in an extreme emergency shortage, whether or not the temporarily shift to remote instruction
- Offering parents/guardians the option to transport their child(ren) or keep their child(ren) home for the day, excused

Again, we ask that parents/guardians consider transportation and/or childcare alternatives in the event that excessive driver absences necessitate a temporary change.

Finally, if you, or someone you know, are/is interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a bus driver, we encourage you to contact Mrs. Cheryl Slay at (724)947-8148.