

Dr. Shelton -

The Transportation Department has battled through this school year using all possible resources to make sure students got to school. We had assistant principals, teachers, technology personnel assisting the normal transportation staff to make sure routes are covered. Even with this team approach there are days when we cannot cover every route. To date we have cancelled 56 routes since our first cancellation in January of 2022.

The national driver shortage has hit our department very hard and we are no longer able to hire drivers at the pace necessary to support the district's programs as it is currently set up.

I believe it is in the district's best interest and in the best interest of our community to expand the Parent Responsibility Zones from the current distance of half of a mile. I surveyed the surrounding districts and all districts that have a Parent Responsibility Zone use a distance of 1 mile, instead of .5 miles. Moving the Parent Responsibility Zone to over 1 mile also removes the state penalty for transporting ineligible students.

I have attached an excel sheet to this email where I provide the number of students impacted by expanding the Parent Responsibility Zones at 1.0 and 1.5 miles. I also provide you with the number of routes we will be able to reduce at each of those distances. Based on the current enrollment and current transportation demands, I believe the most balanced option is to expand secondary schools to 1.5 miles and move elementary zones to 1.0 miles. Reducing the number of students eligible for the bus will allow us to need fewer drivers which will result in being able to cover routes with Transportation Staff.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.