GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (5/9/2012)

Introduction

Due to ongoing state budget cuts, the district has been planning reductions to general education transportation since 2010. In addition to addressing the budget crisis, the district has been working since 2010 to update general education transportation services so the services are aligned with the commitments outlined in the strategic plan and with the student assignment policy.

- The Board of Education approved a new Transportation policy in December 2010 after a yearlong process that included engaging and gathering feedback from the community. It was the first revision to the transportation policy since the 1970s.
- Staff shared a three-year implementation plan, including a list of impacted schools, with the Board, principals, and families in February 2011.
- The first year of the three-year plan was implemented in the 2011-12 school year resulting in:
  - 6 fewer buses (from 44 buses to 38 buses).
  - Reduced the use of general fund budget contributions to transportation by approximately $600,000 ($100,000 per bus).
  - Eleven schools lost general education transportation services: Chavez, Garfield, Grattan, key, Marshall, Miraloma, Parker, Peabody, Sunset, Sutro, and Yick Wo.
  - Four schools experienced a reduction in general education transportation services: Alice Fong Yu, Clarendon, Lilienthal, and Rooftop.
  - Two schools added services: Sherman and Chin from Treasure Island.
  - Elementary ridership dropped from approximately 3,300 students to 2,280 students between the 2010-11 school year and the 2011-12 school year.

What changes will be implemented in August 2012 for the 2012-13 school year?

- There will be 8 fewer buses (going from 38 buses in 2011-12 to 30 buses in 2012-13).
- The reduction of eight buses in August 2012 will reduce the use of general fund budget contributions to transportation by approximately $800,000 ($100,000 per bus).
- Six elementary schools with very low ridership will lose general education transportation services in 2012-13: Bryant, Cleveland, SF Community, Cobb, McKinley, and Sheridan.
- 42 elementary schools will receive modified general education transportation services in 2012-13. Stops with low ridership and stops within ½ mile of each other will be deleted. Some stops in areas of the city with the highest average test score will also been deleted.
- One bus instead of two buses per school will be available to provide services to Hillcrest, Ortega, Parks, Taylor, and Ulloa; by 2013-14 these services will be phased out.
• **Two buses instead of three** buses per school will be available to provide services to Sherman and Rooftop.

• **One bus instead of three** buses will be available to provide the same level of services currently available to Carver and Malcolm X.

• Services from Carver and Starr King to Aptos and services from Treasure Island to Marina will be added, providing new services to students who are going to attend their middle school feeder.

• **One bus instead of two** will be available to provide services from Mission to Aptos; by 2013-14 these services will be phased out.

• Families who want to receive general education transportation services in 2012-13 will have to submit a [Request for General Education Transportation Services](mailto:). Requests are due on June 22, 2012 and families will receive a response from the Transportation Department by July 28, 2012.

• There is no guarantee that general education services will be available to all students who request the services next year.

• To ensure equitable access to our limited transportation services, the following factors will be considered if there are more requests than our limited services can accommodate: public housing, areas of the city with the lowest average test scores, age, grade, enrollment in an Early Education School, 6th graders attending their middle school feeder.

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**How many current riders will be impacted by these changes?**

• Students with IEPs that require transportation will not be impacted.

• Current riders will be **impacted in different ways**; some may lose service while others may be able maintain service by boarding at a different bus stop.

• Approximately 2,280 **elementary school** students currently receive general education transportation services. All ridership numbers are approximate and they include 5th grade students moving on to 6th grade next year.

  o 51 students are at stops to six schools that will not receive general education transportation services in 2012-13: Bryant, Cleveland, SF Community, Cobb, McKinley, and Sheridan.

  o 440 students are at stops that will be deleted en route to 42 schools that will receive modified general education transportation services in 2012-13. Since the schools will continue to receive general education transportation services it is possible that some of the 440 students will be able to maintain transportation services to their school by boarding at a different stop.

• Approximately 379 **middle school** students currently receive general education transportation services. All ridership numbers are approximate and they include 8th grade students moving on to 9th grade next year.

  o Approximately 159 current riders (including 8th graders transitioning to 9th grade) from the Mission/Excelsior will experience modified routes.
How did you decide which changes to make for the 2012-13 school year?

All decisions were guided by the Board of Education’s policy guidelines and budget reduction goals. Within this context, every effort was made to minimize the impact on families by trying to:

- avoid changes to bell schedules;
- maintain as many stops as possible in areas of the city with the lowest average test scores;
- maintain as many stops as possible to after school programs; and
- maintain as many stops as possible that currently have large numbers of students using the stop.

Why are areas of the city with the lowest average test scores a consideration?

SFUSD’s commitment to equity and social justice means we will work tirelessly with the limited resources we have to make sure all students have everything they need to succeed, especially those who have historically not been given the opportunity to reach their goals. It is within this context that the redesign of general education transportation services is prioritizing services for students who live in areas of the city with the lowest average test scores and the highest percent of students living in public housing. Though the schools are located throughout San Francisco, an analysis of the students served by the school reflects the above stated priorities.

Which schools will have general education transportation services in 2012-13?

| ALAMO | GLEN PARK | REDDING/S Valley/Tenderloin |
| ALVARADO | HILLCREST | REVERE K-8 |
| APTOS MS | HOOVER MS | ROOFTOP K-8 |
| ARGONNE | LAFAYETTE | S KING |
| BV/MANN K-8 | LAKESHORE | SANCHEZ |
| CARMICHAEL K-8 | LAU | SHERMAN |
| CARVER/MALCOLM X | LAWTON K-8 | SPRING VALLEY |
| CHIN | LICK MS | STEVENSON |
| CLARENDON | LILIENTHAL K-8 | TAYLOR |
| DREW | MARINA | TENDERLOIN |
| EL DORADO | MEC | ULOA |
| FAIRMOUNT | MILK | VIS VALLEY |
| FLYNN | MUIR | WEBSTER |
| FRANCISCO MS | NEW TRADITIONS | WEST PORTAL |
| GIANNINI MS | ORTEGA | YU K-8 |
| GIANNINI MS | PARKS | |

When and how will the bus schedules for 2012-13 be shared?

By the first week in May, school bus schedules for the 2012-13 school year will be sent to every school with general education transportation services, mailed to current riders and incoming kindergarteners and 6th graders at schools with general education transportation services, and posted on the web: [http://www.sfusd.edu/en/transportation/school-bus-schedules.html](http://www.sfusd.edu/en/transportation/school-bus-schedules.html)

How can I provide feedback?

As we continue to implement the redesigned services for general education transportation we will continue to collect feedback and will review the feedback based on the Board’s policy guidelines. Here are some of the ways you can provide feedback:
What factors will you consider when reviewing my feedback?

We will consider the Board of Education’s transportation policy guidelines adopted on December 14, 2010 and outlined in policy number 108-24SP1. These policy guidelines include:

- maintaining transportation services that currently help create diverse enrollment;
- offering limited transportation services to support providing:
  - English Learners and newcomer students with reasonable access to language programs and newcomer programs;
  - low-income students living in areas of the city with the lowest average test scores with reasonable access to K8 schools and language immersion pathways;
  - students living in densely populated areas of the city with reasonable access to schools in less densely populated areas;
  - reasonable access for attendance area residents to their attendance area school;
  - reasonable access to middle school feeders;
- providing limited school bus transportation to after school programs if feasible and necessary to support the District’s vision for after school services.

We will also consider the Board’s budget reduction goals.

When and how will you respond to my feedback?

Unfortunately we do not have the capacity to follow-up with you in person. We will review all feedback forms received, and if the feedback suggests the need to make any minor modifications, the Transportation Department will inform schools, and all stakeholders, about any changes and why the changes were made.

Is there someone I can call?

If you are unable to fill out the feedback form in writing, you can call the Transportation Department between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Monday through Friday to give your feedback via phone: 415-695-5729. Please keep in mind it is easier for us to review feedback received in writing.

What are some alternatives to yellow bus transportation?

We recognize that this will be a hardship for students and families. Below are websites with community resources that provide alternatives to yellow bus transportation.

- Safe Routes to School: www.sfsaferoutes.org
- Walking School Bus: www.walksf.org
- Family Biking: www.sfbike.org
- SchoolPool: www.WePool2School.org
- MUNI: www.sfmta.com

www.sfusd.edu/en/transportation/transportation-changes.html