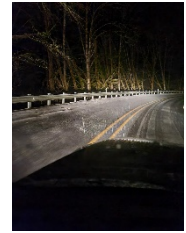


Talking Points-Please contact me at Darleen.vanriper@firstgroup.com with any comments or questions

1. Winter Wonderland Filled with Woes

During the last week of February, we all experienced winter at the coast. As beautiful as the winter scenes were throughout Lincoln County, we certainly had a few difficult days in the transportation world. It started all at 3:00 AM on Wednesday morning (03/22/23) when the First Student Road Check Crew travelled the Lincoln County roads to determine if routes could run. With snow slush and temperatures above freezing, we recommended regular routes with a few select areas that should run snow routes.



We transported our students to and from school on a regular schedule that day, barely delivering our last students home, when winter hit our areas hard. Core staff remained in the offices to await the decision on whether or not LCSD would be closing the next day. After the decision to close was made, we released the necessary communications to inform families, drivers and media. By 6:30 PM the last staff left Toledo to head home, and it took her two hours to get through white-out conditions to her house only to see the lights turn off upon her arrival. At that point, multiple homes throughout the county were without power and experienced winter glamping conditions in their own homes.

As we are now navigating through unpredictable weather patterns and road conditions, we continue to make the decisions that will keep everyone on the roads safe.

2. Love the Bus Month

To celebrate “Love the Bus...and Your Driver” month, we held a photo contest for FS Lincoln County employees to show us how much they love their school bus. The four most loving photos were submitted by Craig & Anita from Lincoln City, Kevin from Toledo, and Ruth and Verena from Waldport. Each winning entry went home with a \$25.00 cash card.



3. Triple Charlie

If you ever listen to the radio chatter towards the end of our runs, you will hear the occasional “10-19,” “Child check complete,” or “Triple Charlie.” All mean the same thing and indicate that drivers have completed their runs, checked their buses for any students who are left behind, and are completely empty. This mandated procedure at the end of every run ensures that we search for that child that did not get off the bus. If we do not find a child, we are good to return to home base; however, if we do find a “sleeper,” the driver radios it in and proceed to take the student either to their school in the mornings or back to their bus stop in the afternoons. We celebrate the drivers who find sleeping children and deliver them safely to their destinations. This month, we celebrated with Triple Charlie: Cake, Coffee & Chicken Noodle Soup.

4. Driver/Candidate Comparison Report (as of 03/14/2023)

	2/7/2023		3/7/2023	
Lincoln County Bus Routes	73	Driver Shortage	73	Driver Shortage
Drivers on hand (as of 11/1/2022, LOA excluded)	53	20	54	19
Out of Town Drivers	4	16	4	15
Routes not currently serviced (combos)	12	4	13	2
Other Considerations:				
Cover Drivers positions not staffed	3	23	3	22
Route Monitor positions not staffed	3		3	
Drivers on LOA/FMLA/WC (Regular & Casual)	5		6	
Casual Drivers with limited availability	11		7	
LCSD & FS Staff (1 & 9) Available to Drive	10		10	

Please note that this information is subject to frequent changes.

February was a month in which we lost five CDL drivers within a week and gained one van driver (in training for CDL) and three CDL drivers. With the help of our OOT drivers (thank you for allowing us to retain the help from Seattle) and FS management/hourly staff, we are still able to cover our routes. We continue to combine routes as needed when we have driver callouts and can't cover their routes.

5. The Training Pipeline

We currently have two candidates in the classroom and two in Behind-the-Wheel training. Hopefully, we will be able to retain our current drivers and add a few new ones within the next few weeks.