

Transportation Report September 2021 Activities

The ISD #709 Transportation department manages both a district owned fleet of vehicles and district employees, including bus drivers, monitors, and mechanics, along with the coordination of contracted transportation services through Voyageur Bus Company.

The two new buses that were purchased several months ago arrived the beginning of October. These buses are fitted with lifts.

The Transportation department uses Versatrans as its student transportation software. Currently, the department is busy building and/or updating about 430+ fall routes, many field trips and coordinating with Voyageur. There are *many* updates daily. 72 field trips happened in September and there are currently 48 'on the books' for October.

As you have heard, there is a shortage of bus drivers; we've lost 6 drivers since the start of the school year. The Transportation department plans daily for bus driver shortages and adjusts routes as needed.

The Transportation department currently follows all COVID protocols; masks are mandated for students and drivers while on the bus (with exceptions as needed). Drivers have access to a Hudson sprayer with Virex, and 2 electrostatic sprayers to be used between routes for disinfections. Additionally, they have alcohol wipes for their own driving area.

Routine general bus maintenance is ongoing (wiring/electrical, brakes, stop arms, etc).

With the addition of the two new buses mentioned above, the average fleet age has dropped from 7 to 6.4 years. Average mileage dropped from 79,564 to 71,171 (goal is 50,000 – 60,000).