

Transportation Report December 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 Transportation department uses Versatrans as its student transportation software. The department is busy building and/or updating about 430+ routes, many field trips and coordinating with Voyageur. There are *many* updates daily.

- 74 field trips happened in December, 2021
- 25 scheduled so far for January, 2022

There continues to be a shortage of bus drivers. Also, the department just recently lost the Lead Mechanic. On a positive note, we have hired a new Administrative Assistant.

The Transportation department plans daily for bus driver shortages and adjusts routes as needed. This is a very large and complicated process.

COVID is still a valid concern and 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, belts, etc.). Also, many jumps starts have been needed this month due to very cold weather.

With the addition of the two new buses mentioned above, the average fleet age is 6.4 years. Current average mileage is 72,005 (goal is 50,000 – 60,000).