



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Together for Excellence ★ ¡Juntos por la Excelencia!

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Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Executive Director of Business & Operations, Karen Apostoli
DATE: September 4, 2025
RE: Bus Transportation Update

This memo is:

- ☒ Information only.
☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: _____

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated. _____
☐ or attached to this memo

Basic information:

The District's experience with Illinois Central over the last few school years, as well as the start of this year, has been less than optimal. For the past few years, Illinois Central has struggled to provide on-time, consistent service for our students and their families.

Background or historical information:

A few areas of concern are:

- Middle school, elementary, and preschool morning routes are generally running on time.
 - Several special education routes require time adjustments as they are running late
- We have experienced four (4) bus breakdowns in the first eight (8) days of school.
 - Two of the breakdowns were on the first day of school
- Several buses are arriving at the elementary schools nearly 15-20 minutes after student dismissal
- Here Comes the Bus App is still not working
- In addition to our very late elementary route on the first day of school, a middle school route with a sub-driver dropped a student off at 4:24 p.m., 1.5 hours after school was out
- Communication regarding routes that are running late is almost nonexistent.

Administrators are unable to communicate with families impacted by late routes because we are unaware of the situation.

Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue: (Options) 3 options

This is the last year of a 2-year contract with Illinois Central. (Through June 30, 2026)

Recommendations: (Recommendations) and (Evaluate)

A meeting was held with both Sheldon Stewart, the Regional Operations Manager, and Barry Koehl, the Contract Manager, on Friday, August 22nd, to discuss the above-mentioned concerns. At that time, Illinois Central committed to the following:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a communication plan to be used in the event of a late route, bus breakdown, etc. To date, I have not received a written copy of the plan discussed.• Reviewing their accountability procedures for all drivers. (Last-minute call-offs were going unnoticed by management, resulting in last-minute sub drivers that were unprepared for the route - no sign, no route sheet, and possibly not the correct equipment) |
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| Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?: |
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