



## Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103

Memo

To: Board of Education  
From: Scott Warren, Ed.D.  
Date: July 11, 2025  
Re: Sprague Transportation Survey Results

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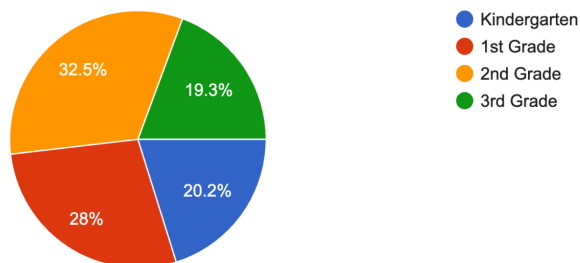
In response to increased congestion and safety concerns during student arrival times at Laura B. Sprague School, the District conducted a transportation survey to gather parent input on student bus ridership patterns and barriers. The intent was to assess how families currently utilize bus transportation and identify steps to reduce car traffic in the area during morning drop off times.

### Data

- Number of families completing the survey: 243

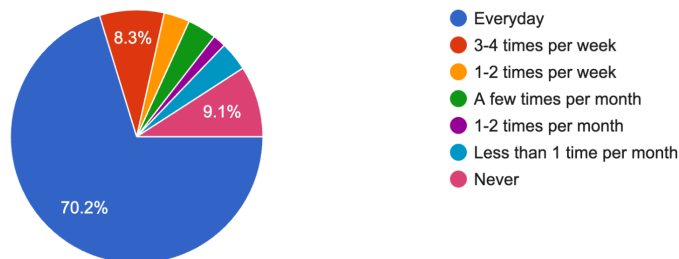
Please indicate the grade level of your child for the 2025-2026 school year.

243 responses



How often does/did your child ride the bus in the morning to come to school?

242 responses



### **Most cited reasons for not riding the bus in the AM**

1. It is too early in the morning: 44
2. The route takes too long or it is faster to drive to school: 33
3. Dropping off works better with my schedule: 12

### **Summary of Findings**

- **Bus Ridership Trends:**
  - **Arrival:** 53 respondents indicated their children ride the bus two days or less per week in the morning.
- **Top Reasons for Not Riding the Bus:**
  - **Early Bus Pick up:** The most cited reason for not riding the bus in the morning was that the bus pick up time is too early for their child/family.
  - **Long Bus Ride:** The second most cited reason for not riding the bus in the morning is that the route time is too long.
  - **Parent Schedules:** Family work routines are perceived as easier or faster.
  - **Convenience:** Several families stated that the bus stop is not conveniently located or not close enough to their home.
- **Parent Requested Changes to Encourage Bus Use:**
  - Make school start times later
  - Reduce bus route ride times
  - Review parameters for bus stop locations.
- **Additional Comments:** A few parents stated challenges of the bus not entering their cul-de-sac or being too far from home to be practical.

### **Discussion**

The survey results indicate a disconnect between the logistics of bus service and families' perceived ability to use it. Although the district provides transportation for all students, several challenges — including early school start times, long bus rides, stop locations, and individual family schedules — have limited ridership. The most significant factors cited for low usage are the early start time and extended duration of some bus routes.

In 2015–2016, the district conducted a comprehensive study on school start times. Research supported a later start for junior high students, ideally no earlier than 8:30 AM, while elementary students were found to be better suited for earlier start times due to developmental factors. As a result, the district established a guideline that no school would begin before 8:15 AM to support student well-being and adequate sleep.

Adjusting Sprague School's start time to later in the morning would require either:

1. Shifting Half Day and Daniel Wright to earlier start times — which would simply transfer the traffic and timing issues to those schools and likely worsen congestion; or
2. Adding additional bus routes specifically for Sprague — which would present a financial challenge, requiring the purchase/leasing of additional buses and the hiring of more drivers.

The district will continue to evaluate these factors as it considers feasible and equitable solutions to address transportation access and efficiency.

### **Recommendations for Improvement**

1. **Evaluate Bus Stop Locations:**
  - Conduct a route and stop review to explore adjusting stops.
2. **Promote Awareness of Bus Options:**
  - Improve district communication around bus schedules, expectations, and benefits through back-to-school packets, emails, and the district website.
  - Share safety benefits of bus use to encourage community participation.
3. **Implement No Parking Zones and Investigate Staggered Drop-Off Times:**
  - Work with the Village of Lincolnshire to install limited-time no-parking signage during drop-off and pick-up to increase flow.
  - Investigate possible staggered arrival windows for families not using the bus.
4. **Further Exploration:**
  - Investigate feasibility of a parent carpool program.
  - Integrate feedback loops to measure whether implemented changes increase bus ridership.