

Transportation Report March 2021

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 major focus for the past three weeks has been analyzing and condensing secondary bus routes in order to support Secondary Hybrid and more full in-person learning starting on March 8. The shortage of bus drivers, not just in Duluth, but statewide, has required a restructure of the number of stops and number of students on each route. The district conducted a secondary survey to find out how many students needed transportation services and routes were re-built using this information. Over 2,000 changes were required to transition to hybrid!

As adjustments come in and as more data becomes available for the March 29 start, more work will be needed. In a normal year transportation would plan for up to 2 months to develop and finalize bus routes for the school year, so this 3-week timeline created a whole new priority structure for the transportation department.

Due to the change in secondary hybrid transportation needs, our tutor and meal hubs have been discontinued starting March 8.

General maintenance and repairs continue on our bus fleet along with regular inspections.

The transportation manager works closely with the Superintendent to determine safe busing based on weather conditions.