

Date: September 4, 2023
To: Media Contacts
From: Public Relations & Communications
Re: Bussing Information/Update



Each year in August, many school districts have a shortage of drivers and need to determine how to start the school year. This has been occurring in Waukesha prior to this school year as well.

Following many industries, an experienced or a new bus driver has many employment opportunities with varying starting wages and sign-on bonuses. First Student kept us informed on their recruitment strategies and staffing, yet there were many times where they were adding new drivers while losing some as well.

We have worked together with First Student to consolidate bus routes and have decreased from 87 routes last school year to 68 routes this year to maximize efficiencies.

On Thursday, August 31, 2023, we communicated with all families who receive transportation. We also communicated with specific families whose bus route will run early, late, or will not be running at the current time due to a lack of drivers. Drivers are still needed for nine bus routes and First Student is actively training and testing new applicants.

Since our communication with families directly impacted on Thursday, First Student can now cover route 42 (West/Rose Glen) as of the first day of school. The District is working to get bus passes from Waukesha Metro as an option for some families in the Horning attendance area.

Each principal has sent a welcome letter to families, ensuring that they will be welcomed regardless of when their student arrives or how they arrive. Principals are working to establish an efficient way for students to get off the bus, check in at the office, and quickly get to class.

We appreciate the flexibility of our families and staff at Rose Glen, the middle schools, and West High School, as this is where the challenges are consolidated. Seventeen of our twenty-two schools have transportation operating as usual.

Our bussing dashboard will be updated each day as more route information becomes available. We understand that this is an inconvenience to our families and will continue to partner with First Student to move forward with aligning transportation for our students.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a bus driver, please visit <https://firststudentinc.com/careers/>.