



Prince George's County Public Schools Department of Transportation

Dr. Rudolph Saunders, Director
Alemnesh Allen, Transportation Coordinator - Special Education
Herbert Bridges, Transportation Coordinator - Special Education

2022 - 2023 SECAC MEETING

WELCOME TO SY 2022-2023

PGCPS School District Mission

Provide a transformative educational experience anchored by excellence in equity – developing 21st century competencies and enabling each student's unique brilliance to flourish in order to build empowered communities and a more inclusive and just world.

Transportation Mission

To deliver efficient transportation and fleet services that enable all students to arrive at their destination safely and on-time every day.

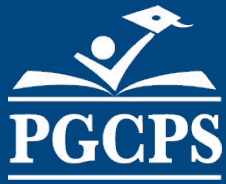
AGENDA

- ❑ PGCPS Transportation SY2023**
- ❑ Bus Operations, Technology, and Student Bus Information**
- ❑ Transportation as a Related Service**
- ❑ Closures, Delays, & Inclement Weather**
- ❑ Bus Staff Training**
- ❑ Transportation Concerns**
 - ❑ Transportation Resolution System - trs.pgcps.org**
 - ❑ Transportation Phone Bank 301-952-6570**

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION



Dr. Rudolph R. Saunders, Jr., Director of Transportation



TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISORS

BUS LOT(S)	SUPERVISOR
DOUGLASS & GODDARD	CARL SCHUETTLER
FAIRMONT & FRIENDLY	RHONDA TUCK
GREENBELT & CROSSLAND	DAWN BYRD
SURRATTSVILLE & BLADENSBURG	FRANCINE PARKS
FORESTVILLE & LAUREL	GEORGE FLEMING
MULLIKIN & HANSON	DOMONIQUE HAYNES
SKYLINE AB	DAVID HILL - OPERATIONS TONY SPRUILL - OPERATIONS



COMMUNICATIONS

- Prince George's County Public Schools has approximately 1,200 school buses transporting almost 100,000 students daily.
- **The Communications Center serves as the first line of Communication for parents, schools, and bus staff driving students.**
- We experience increased hold times during the beginning of the school year.
- Staff members are working to answer phones from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on a daily basis.
- The Communications Center is here to assist with ensuring students are transported safely to and from school. Currently hiring additional staff for the phone bank to assist with the volume inquiries.



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POINT-OF-CONTACTS

- Transportation Point-of-Contacts at schools assist with coordinating the AM arrival and PM dismissal schedules, have access to look up bus information, and maintain student lists to ensure students are boarding the correct bus.
- TPC's monitor and report student transportation issues to the designated administrator and may follow-up to resolve issues with the Dept. of Transportation.
- **Transportation Point-of-Contacts at schools should be made aware of any issues with transportation.**

Special Education Transportation Coordinators



***Questions or concerns
related to Transporting
Students with Disabilities***



**Alemnesh
Allen**
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**Herbert
Bridges**
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Special Education Transportation Coordinators

- Works collaboratively with the Dept. of Special Education to ensure the provision of transportation services for students with disabilities within comprehensive and special school settings.
- Represents the Dept. of Transportation at IEP meetings.
- Handles the administration of student **safety vests**.
- Works with school and transportation operations staff to assist with placement of students on appropriate routes.
- Participates in the coordination of planning and implementation of professional development activities or special needs bus personnel and supervisory staff.





TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES

- Prince George's County Public Schools is greatly affected by the chronic, national school bus driver shortage experienced by the pandemic
- Bus Driver Job fairs being held as often as bi-weekly and offering competitive pay with benefits as well as PAID CDL training. There is a training process that takes time for new drivers without CDLs.
- Parents are encouraged to carpool, when possible. Middle/High school students may utilize The Bus operated by Prince George's County for free with a student ID.
- Bus routes may be adjusted with increased ride times and more students sharing bus routes, even on special education routes.
- Parents should utilize infoFinder for bus schedule updates and StopFinder for setting geo alerts to track the bus and get alerts. Schools may provide updated information regarding bus schedules from the internal ViewFinder system.

Determination of Transportation as a Related Service

During an IEP meeting, qualified personnel review the data in order to determine if a child with a disability requires the related service of transportation.

Discussions may include:

- cognitive/medical/physical/mobility reasons
- pick-up and drop-off location;
- length of ride time to and from the school;
- additional personnel needed for transport
- specialized equipment needs
- travel training and other supports as needed

A transportation representative as a part of the IEP Team can provide valuable information that is critical in the development, review, and revision of a student's IEP.





Do most students with disabilities and IEPs need special transportation?

No. Most children with disabilities are able to use the same transportation system as their classmates who don't have disabilities. Sometimes just adding a closer stop, special equipment or aides to the school bus is all that is required of a student with a disability.

Students who are granted a special transfer requests are not entitled to transportation services.



Pick Up and Drop off Determination Curb to Curb

- Neither IDEA nor Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act specifically addresses whether transportation should be from a designated bus stop or from the curbside in front of a child's home. This decision is left to the IEP team and based upon the individual needs of the child.
- It is not door to door service..... it is **curb to curb** service.
- There may be addresses that are not fully accessible or safe for the bus to travel. Stop location concerns will be addressed by the transportation supervisor with feedback from the driver trainer for each bus lot in consultation.

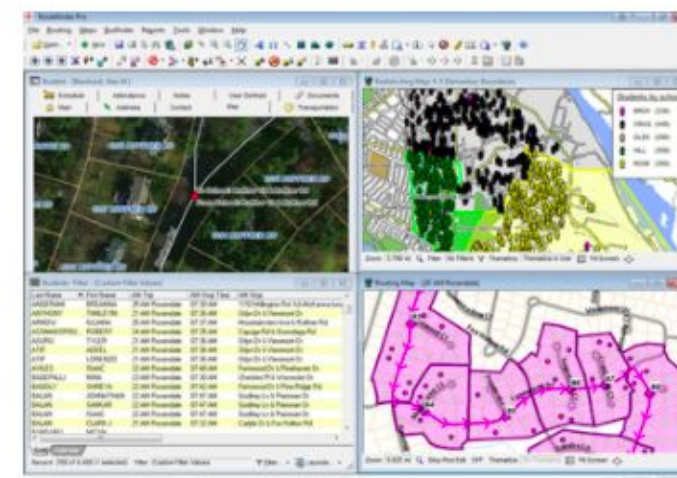
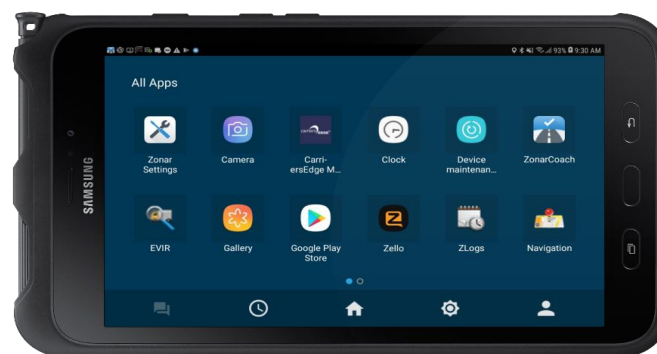
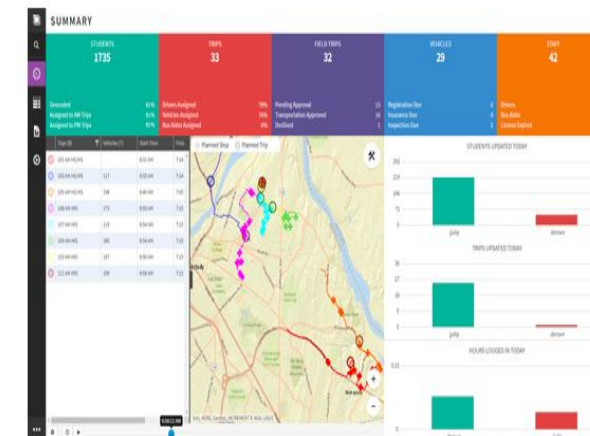
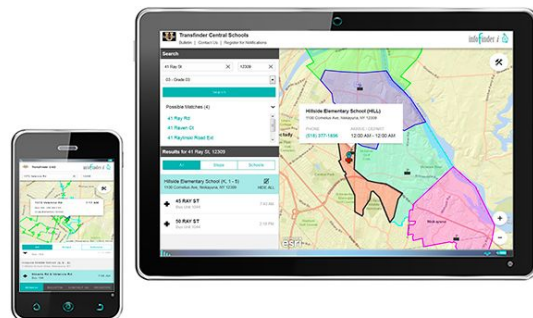
- **Non-Public Transportation Services When PGCPS is Closed:**
 - PGCPS provides transportation services based on the current non-public school calendar.
 - When PGCPS is on spring break, we continue to transport for non-public schools that remain open. When non-public schools are on spring break, PGCPS does not provide transportation.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Decisions are made between 5:00am-6:00am which must be authorized by the CEO or designee and announced by 6:30am
- Two-Hour Delays: NO Work-Study/ECC/Pre-K/Field Trips/Special Education Programs
- Non-Public Schools: May follow their local jurisdiction protocols. The decision to extend reduced schedule days on a two-hour delay is at the discretion of the non-public school.

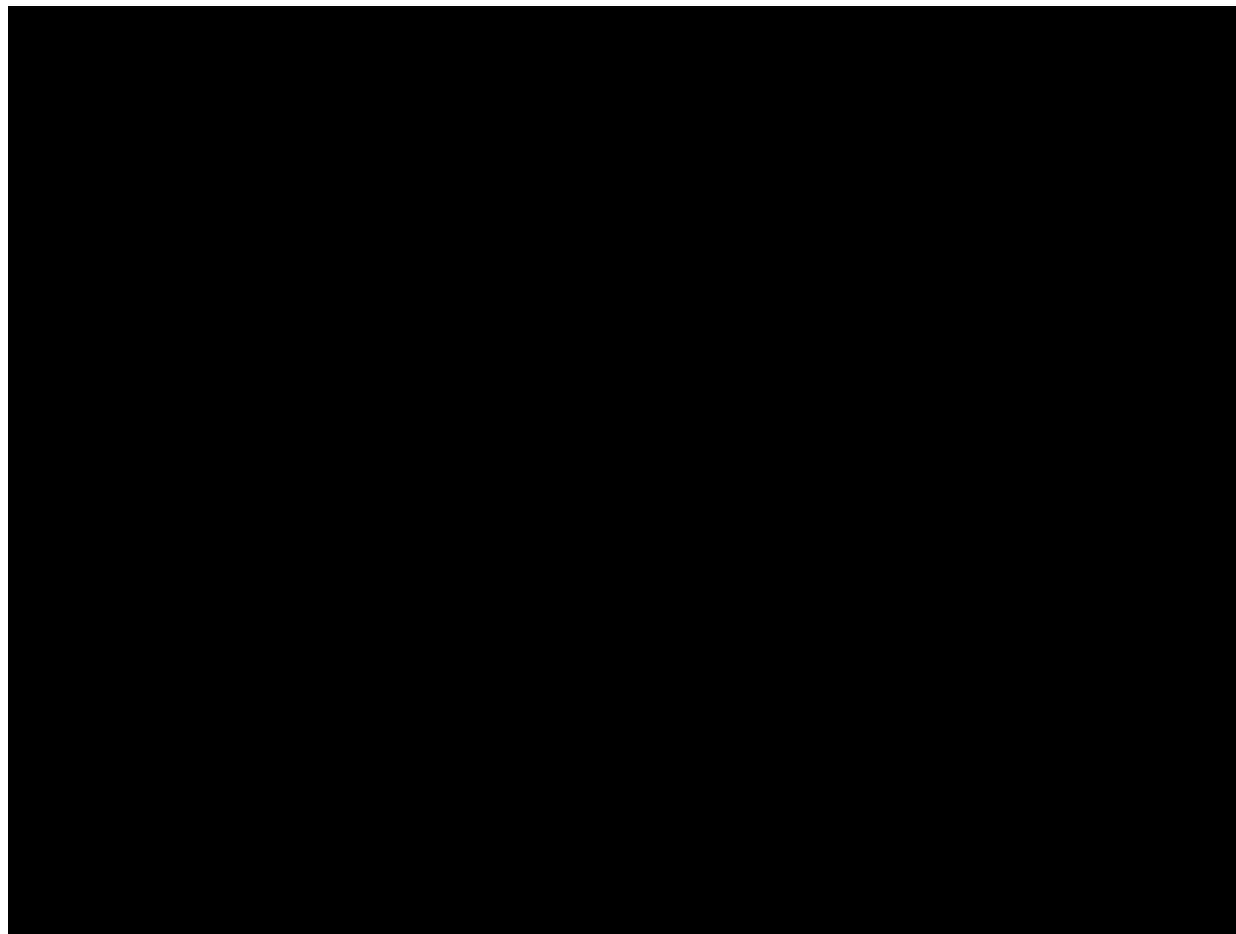


BUS OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY





BUS OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY

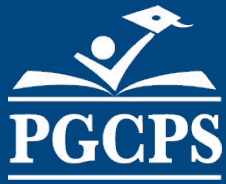




STUDENT BUS INFORMATION

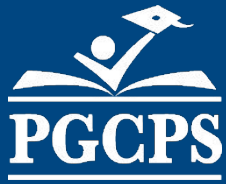
Student Trip Details for SY 2022-2023

- School Transportation Contacts have access to ViewFinder
- Notifications of times will come from the bus driver, the school, **infoFinder** website or the **StopFinder app**
- Parents must have an EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE IN SCHOOLMAX for the StopFinder App
- Questions about StopFinder: transport.finder@pgcps.org
- Please note effective dates are not in StopFinder (LIVE DATA).
Effective start dates fall on Mondays and Thursdays of each week.
- **ALL address changes must be made with the school registrar.**



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- **Face coverings are optional for all students while riding the school bus.**
- Students may have medical exemptions from wearing a face-covering on the school bus.*
- Face coverings and proper physical distancing are recommended while waiting at the bus stop.
- While waiting to exit the bus, students will remain seated and will not congregate in the aisle. Adhere to all directives provided by the driver and will follow all Transportation Bus Rules.
- To increase/improve airflow whenever possible, it is recommended that windows may be open to the maximum extent possible when weather permits. Roof hatches and three windows on each side of the bus will be partially opened to increase airflow.
- Driver side window may be open, and fans should be utilized to increase the airflow.



Training for Bus Drivers and Aides

- All transportation personnel receive annual training at In-Service:
 - Hands-on and Virtual Training to support students with special health care needs and the use of specialized equipment-wheelchair/safety vest
 - Behavior strategies and tips for bus management
 - (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention for de-escalation strategies
 - Seizure, Epi-Pen, and First Aid Training
 - Specific, individualized behavior for students may be requesting to be provided by the school personnel who know the student best.



How will bullying on my child's school bus be addressed?

- It is essential to immediately address any known bullying that occurs on a school bus in order to restore a safe transportation environment.
- **All bullying incidents are to be documented by school bus staff and reported to school administrators for a thorough investigation.**

Protocol for Reviewing Video Footage on School Buses

1. All requests for reviewing video footage on school buses will be requested through the school administration to the Transportation Supervisor / Bus Lot Foreman.
2. The school bus is identified along with the date/time requested and the request is processed through our external vendor.
3. The Transportation Department will review the content of the video and make a copy to be shared with appropriate school personnel to complete the investigation.

- **How are complaints about a bus driver or aide best directed?**
 - The complaint should start at the school level with the school-based transportation point-of-contact or IEP case manager.
 - Contact the Transportation Department **(301) 952-6570** to report the concern.
 - **Phone Bank Hours 6am - 6pm Monday - Friday**
 - For concerns after regular office hours, **call School Security at 301-499-7000.**
 - A ticket may be submitted to the [Transportation Resolution System created at trs.pgcps.org](https://trs.pgcps.org) (PGCPS Transportation website)

What is the protocol for resolution?

- The concern is forwarded to the appropriate transportation supervisor who conducts a thorough investigation.
- If the concern is regarding accommodations provided through transportation, the transportation coordinator for special education will be included.
- Upon completion of the investigation, the transportation supervisor will take the appropriate action.

A screenshot of the Transportation Resolution System (TRS) website. The header is dark blue with the PGCPS logo and the text "TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION SYSTEM". Below the header, a light gray box contains the text "Welcome to Transportation Resolution System". Inside this box, there is a section with the text "Click [Create Request] for New Requests or [Search] for status of Existing Requests". Below this text are two blue buttons: "Create Request" and "Search". At the bottom of the light gray box, there is a line of text: "All Prince George's County Public Schools Personnel Please Log In" followed by a blue button labeled "Log In >". Below the light gray box, there is a blue box with white text that reads: "The Transportation Resolution System (TRS) is for schools and parents to communicate their questions or concerns regarding Transportation." and a link "NEW Transportation Resolution System". At the very bottom, a dark gray footer bar contains the text "PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • www.pgcps.org".

trs.pgcps.org

**PLEASE VISIT OUR
TRANSPORTATION WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.pgcps.org/transportation/>



**QUICK
FACTS
PAGE**

END OF SESSION EVALUATION

We value your feedback. Please complete our information session evaluation using the link below:

<https://bit.ly/Dot22SECAC-eval>



SCAN ME

**THANK
YOU**
for the lives you touch
We appreciate you
SO MUCH

