



Prince George's County Public Schools Department of Transportation

2021 - 2022 SECAC MEETING

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

WELCOME TO SY 2021-2022

School District Mission

PGCPS will be a GREAT school system recognized for providing education services, which ensure every student in our diverse school district graduates ready for college and careers in a global society.

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

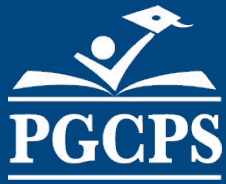
- ☐ **Who's Who in Transportation**
- ☐ **Transportation Challenges SY2022**
- ☐ **Transportation as a Related Service**
- ☐ **Closures, Delays, & Inclement Weather**
- ☐ **Bus Operations Technology and Student Bus Information**
- ☐ **Sanitation, Safety, and PPE**
- ☐ **Bus Staff Training**
- ☐ **Transportation 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
MULLIKIN & GODDARD - NORTH	CARL SCHUETTLER
FAIRMONT & BLADENSBURG - NORTH	RHONDA TUCK
GREENBELT & LAUREL - NORTH	TONY SPRUILL OPERATIONS - NORTH
CROSSLAND & FRIENDLY - SOUTH	DAWN BYRD
FORESTVILLE & SURRATTSVILLE - SOUTH	FRANCINE PARKS
DOUGLASS & HANSON - SOUTH	JACOB ANDERSON OPERATIONS - SOUTH
SKYLINE AB (CENTRAL OFFICE)	DAVID HILL OPERATIONS - CENTRAL



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.



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**
alemnesh.allen@pgcps.org



**Herbert
Bridges**
hbridges@pgcps.org

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 transportation operations staff in developing bus routes and placing 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





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 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 should 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.

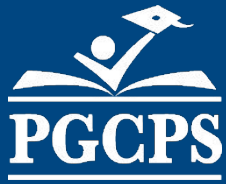




Do most students with disabilities and IEPs need special transportation?

No. Most children with disabilities are able to use the same transportation system as their classmates who don't have disabilities. Sometimes just adding 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.

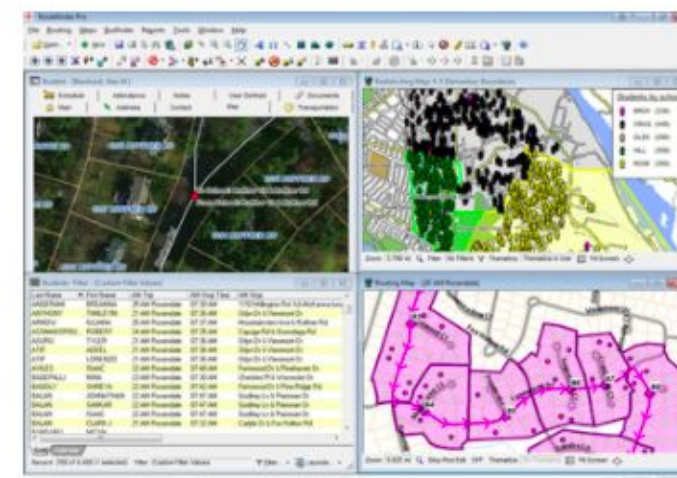
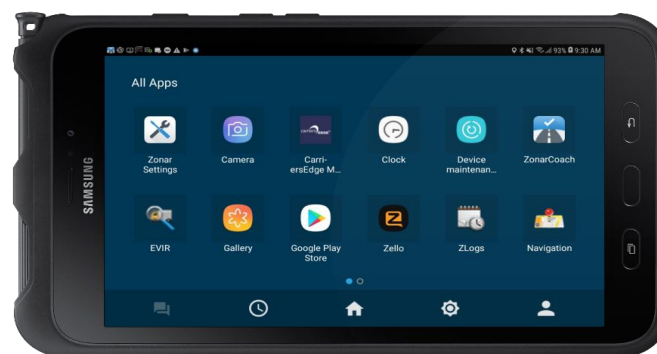
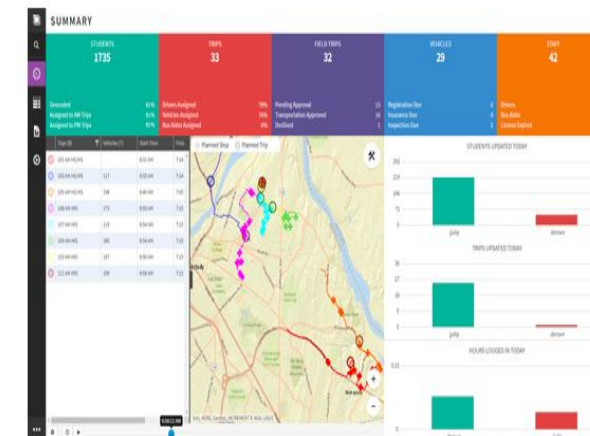
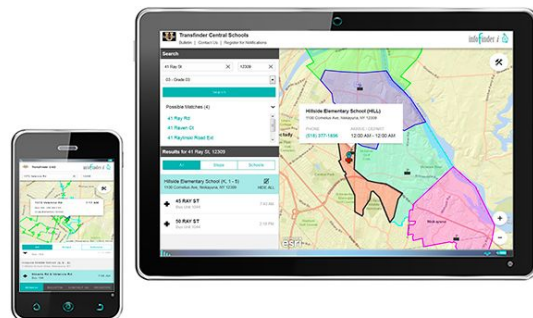
- **Non-Public Transportation Services When PGCPS is Closed:**
 - PGCPS provides transportation services based on the current non-public school calendar.
 - When PGCPS is on spring break, we continue to transport for non-public schools that remain open. When non-public schools are on spring break, PGCPS 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.

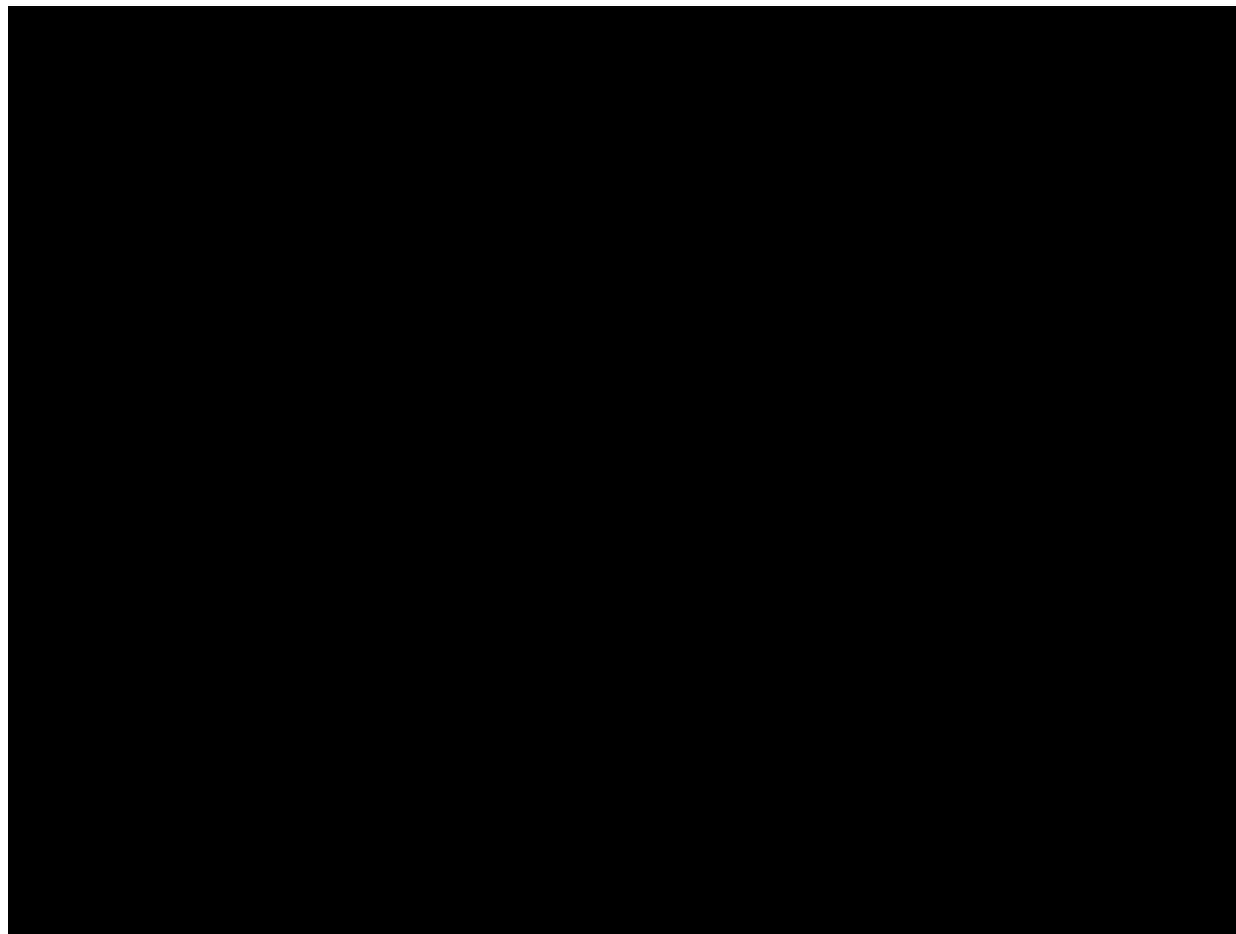


BUS OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY





BUS OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY





STUDENT BUS INFORMATION

Student Trip Details for SY 2021-2022

School Transportation Contacts have access to ViewFinder
Notifications of times will come from the bus driver, the school,
infoFinder i or StopFinder

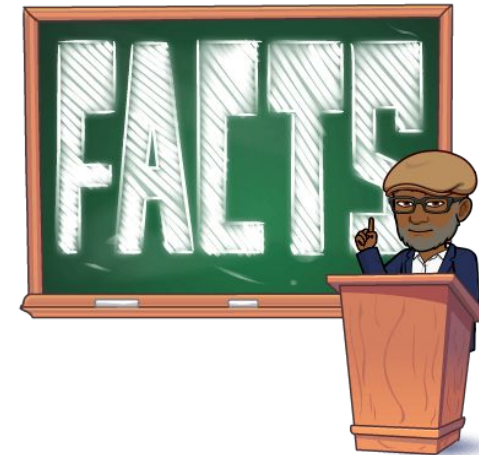
Parents must have an EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE IN
SCHOOLMAX for StopFinder

Address changes must be made with the school registrar.

SANITATION NEEDS



**First Aid/CPR
Training**



PPE FOR BUS LOTS OPERATIONS



Drivers will be required to wear face coverings (masks and shields) when students are disembarking or boarding the bus while not on route.

At ALL times, bus staff will be required to wear masks (over nose and mouth). Drivers will not be required to wear face shields while driving because this may be distracting to the driver and for drivers that wear glasses may be at risk of their glasses fogging while driving.

Bus drivers and aides who drive the special center and non-public routes will be required to wear surgical masks/face coverings, gloves, and face shields. Face shields, in addition to face masks, will be required for staff members who may interact with students who spit or have salivary incontinence or the involuntary spillage of saliva over the lower lip.

Bus staff will be provided additional masks for students on an as-needed basis.



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- **Face coverings will be required 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, 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.

*Face Mask Medical Exemptions must follow the
PGCPS Face Coverings Accommodations Process



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.
 - Use of specialized equipment-wheelchair/safety vest
 - Training on resolving bullying of students riding the school bus
 - Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training for de-escalation strategies
 - Seizure and First Aid Training

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 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.
 - **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 found 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.

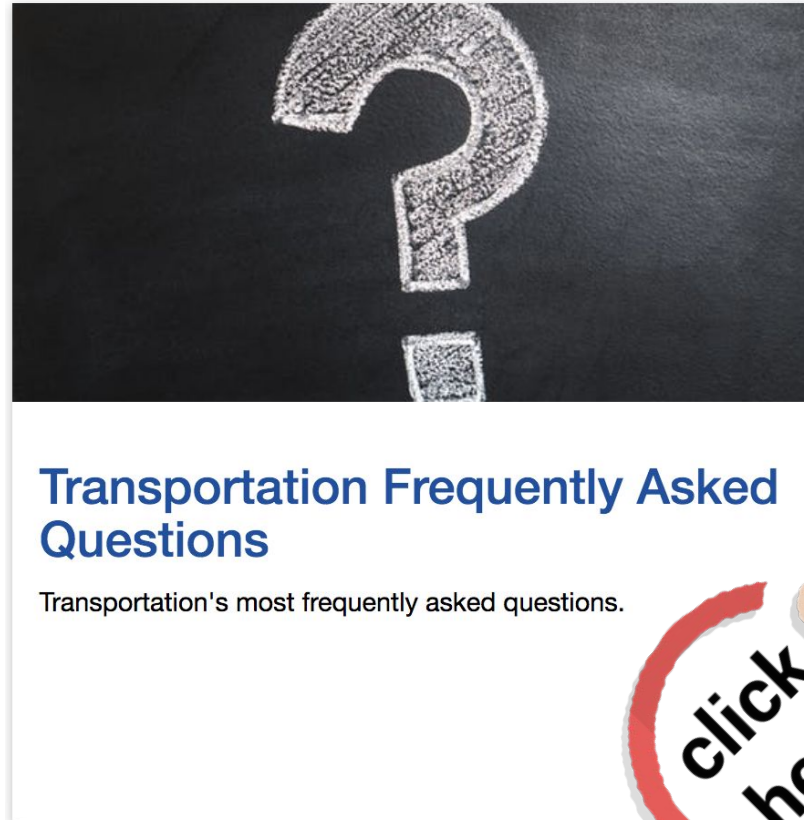
If the concern is regarding accommodations provided through transportation, the transportation coordinator for special education will be included.

Upon completion of the investigation, the transportation supervisor will take the appropriate action.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[PLEASE VISIT OUR
TRANSPORTATION
WEBSITE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION](https://www.pgcps.org/transportation/)

[https://www.pgcps.
org/transportation/](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/Dot21SECAC-eval>



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

