



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

December 14, 2021

Dear Lowell Public Schools Families,

The critical shortage of school bus drivers continues to be a challenge in Lowell and across the country. The shortage is due to a number of factors we have been dealing with since the beginning of the school year and has been exacerbated by an increase in COVID-19 cases, as well as other illnesses, among drivers. We expect the driver shortage to continue for the foreseeable future.

In the coming weeks and months, there will be disruption to school bus transportation and some routes may, at times, be forced to be combined to accommodate the staffing shortage. This will result in delays, which we are working to minimize to the best of our ability.

Please continue to make sure your child is ready and at the bus stop at the expected pick-up time, but be aware that there may be delays both in morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off. Do not be alarmed if your child's bus is 20-25 minutes late. When a delay is anticipated, we will do our best to get the word to you through your child's school as soon as possible. However, sometimes delays are unforeseen and the arrival of the bus may be impacted by traffic or other conditions and we will not be able to inform you ahead of time.

In the most extreme situation – where a bus will be more than 30 minutes late in the afternoon because the bus route has been combined with another route, you will be notified by your child's school as soon as we know, in an effort to give you ample time to make other arrangements for pick-up if you do not want to wait for the bus.

If you have the means to provide alternative transportation for your child to and from school, whether by dropping off and picking them up yourself, or by participating in a neighborhood carpool, please consider doing so at this time.

As always, our priority is to safely transport all Lowell Public Schools students to and from school.

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation in this matter.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the district's Transportation Office by calling (978) 674-4333 or by submitting an online form at www.lowell.k12.ma.us/contactform.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joel D. Boyd
Superintendent of Schools