



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

September 13, 2021

Dear Lowell Public Schools Families,

The shortage of school bus drivers has been a challenge this year in Lowell and across the country. We have been working together with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to come up with solutions to transport our students safely to and from school each day. Today, we received confirmation through the Governor's Office that the National Guard will be available to support this important work, which will ensure that a greater number of drivers are available to Lowell and other school districts in the Commonwealth while maintaining the strict standards of health and safety we require from drivers.

As of today, we anticipate 15 National Guardsmen being sent to Lowell to fill the shortage of drivers for our smaller 10-passenger vans. Our large 70-passenger yellow school bus riders will continue to receive transportation service with their currently assigned drivers.

We expect to have this program up and running by the end of the week, and this relationship will continue until we can fill all of our buses and vans with permanent school bus drivers.

We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available and we will communicate directly with families whose children will be transported in the vans with drivers from the National Guard.

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