

Statement Regarding

Changes to New Haven Public Schools Bus Transportation

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (August, 28, 2019) – This academic year in an effort to better serve our students, the New Haven Public Schools rerouted bus routes and school bus assignments. These changes were made to reduce redundancies, shorten times that students spent on buses and to promote active living among our students.

The changeover from last year's routing to this year's bus assignments has raised a number of concerns in the assignment of bus stops. New Haven Public Schools' staff is intensively focused on evaluating each and every concern that our families have raised due to the adjustments in bus transportation stops for New Haven Public Schools.

We sincerely apologize for the confusion and anxiety the changes to our bus transportation system have caused our families. We are here to serve our New Haven Public schools families and to support our students.

Bus routes were re-calculated with new walk distances of one-half mile to schools for Grades K-8 and walk distances of 1.5 miles for High School students. The walk distances to schools were calculated with consideration to safety of walk, safety to cross streets and student need.

Walk distances to bus stops are limited to one half mile, though many are much less than one half mile.

However, we also recognize that there are individual circumstances that require review of some school bus assignments. Our Transportation Department is working to address the issues as they are raised. We are reviewing and making adjustments on a case-by-case basis.

In order to expedite the process, we have created several means to contact the Department regarding bussing issues.

- Families can call the Department of Transportation at (475) 220-1600.

- We have also created a fillable form that can be entered directly from the district's website at www.nhps.net/transportationform
- We are also providing paper copies of the form at each of our schools.

We are asking that families who already have a school bus stop assignment to follow that schedule until we can fully review and address specific questions. It is our goal to review and evaluate all requests and to provide families with an update on their status no later than September 9, 2019.

To address the high volume of back-to school inquiries, we have added additional staff to assist with in-person inquiries and to answer phone calls. As a District, we take the safety and security of our students very seriously. We apologize for any inconvenience and anguish this may have caused our families. We look forward to a great start to the new school year.