

UPDATE P-1: Bus Driver Shortage (possible impact this week)

September 26, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

During this first month of school we have worked closely with All Star Transportation (bus company) to ensure that our students are transported to and from school regardless of the bus driver shortage impacting districts across Connecticut. It is important that you be aware of the possible local impact that this shortage may have on transportation for tomorrow and the coming week.

As you have likely heard via recent news, some 300 bus drivers across Connecticut may not meet the Governor's Executive Order 13G regarding vaccination compliance, which could further exacerbate the driver shortage, in turn, impacting transportation services for many districts on Monday, September 27th.

Although All Star is experiencing a reduction in the number of its drivers, including substitute drivers, we have been able to manage thus far. Additionally, Mr. Post, our Director of Business Operations, has worked closely with All Star to monitor the Governor's Executive Order requiring vaccinations for all district employees and for contracted service providers to comply with the Monday, September 27th deadline.

The majority of All Star's drivers have already complied with the Governor's Order in advance of Monday's deadline. Bus drivers have submitted information required to demonstrate vaccination compliance to All Star, or have arranged to complete weekly COVID testing prior to the deadline.

If this driver shortage crisis should occur for any of our buses, notification would come via email, as early on Monday morning for those families of students who may be affected (bus route without a driver). All Star has no way of fully assessing the situation or impacted routes until drivers show up or not for work on Monday morning. Should we need to, the plan is to send a school message to affected families by approximately 6:45 a.m., to share alternative plans (rescheduled time for later pick up following completion of other routes), or to allow families to arrange for their own transportation.

While today's email is meant to alert families in advance, we are anticipating that here in Brookfield, all buses will be able to run on time and without interruption on Monday morning.

We understand these are challenging times, and in turn, the extreme pressure and inconvenience it has placed on all of us. We appreciate your patience as we continue to find solutions to this ever changing and complex time.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Barile

Superintendent

Developed in collaboration with the Western Connecticut Superintendent Association