

Get on the Bus... **Moving From Outsourced** to District-Operated **Transportation: Save Money and Improve Customer Service**



Fee hike drives WFISD to look into doing bus transportation inhouse

TRISH CHOATE, WICHITA FALLS TIMES RECORD NEWS

July 16, 2023 at 1:39 PM





More continue to look at moving away from contracted services to district-operated student transportation

Kankakee School District moving ahead with transportation department

By Stephanie Markham | smarkham@daily-journal.com | 815-937-3330 | Jan 14, 2023

2023







Bus driver shortage looms with new school year

By Monica Sager | msager@eagletribune.com Aug 18, 2023

















Examine the lessons learned by one district to help other districts complete their own analysis - setting the context







Identify ways to help determine if a transition to district-operated transportation is right for your district







Your take-away: An overview of all elements you need to consider to do your own district analysis & a blank spreadsheet to get you started.



Brian E. Allen

Deputy Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer, **Worcester Public Schools (MA)**

Chair, Education Committee, ASBO International



X Marian_E_Allen



@Brian Allen





John Hennessey
Director of Transportation
Worcester Public Schools
2023 Distinguished Service Award
National Association of Pupil Transportation



Michael Freeman
Assistant Director of Transportation
Worcester Public Schools



Recognitions





ASBO International 2023 Pinnacle Award of Achievement



Recognitions





Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials 2023 Donald Johnson Operational and Cost Efficiency Award Recipient



WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS Worcester, Massachusetts



24,000 students | 50 schools and programs
Half of the students ride the school bus daily
Level of Service (pre-Covid):

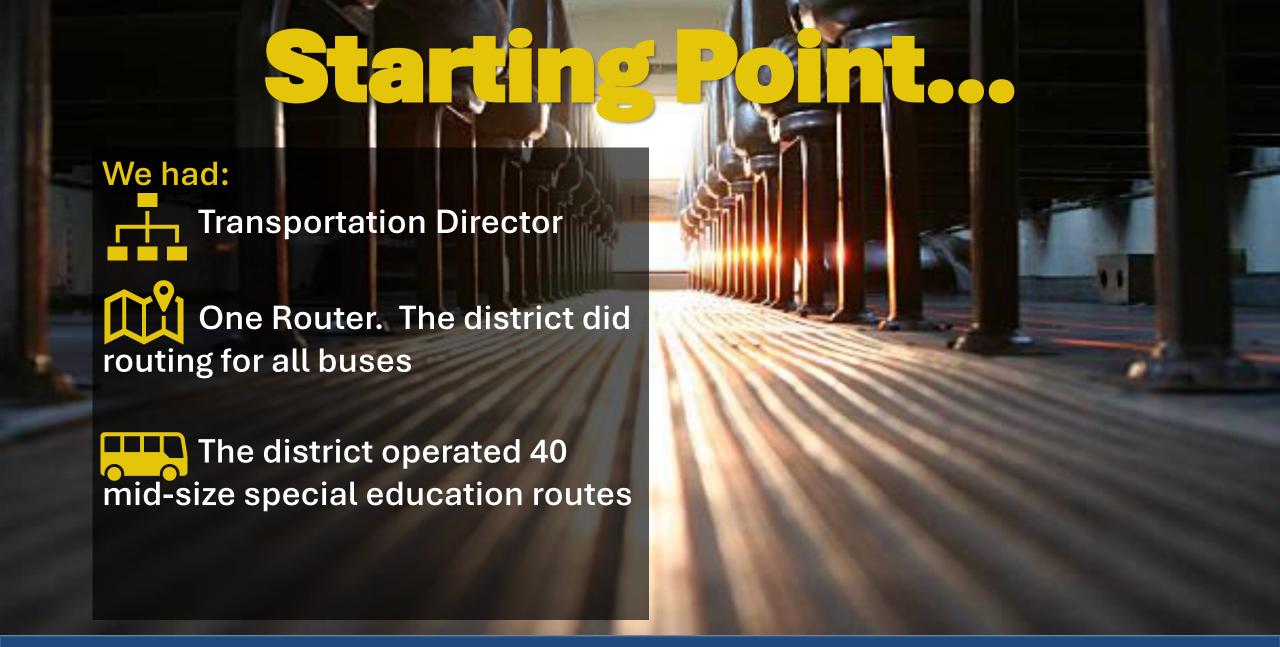
101 Full-Size Bus Routes (corner-to-corner)

95 Mid-Size Bus Routes (curb-to-curb)

21 Wheelchair Bus Routes (curb-to-curb)

Modified three-tier system







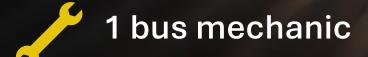
Phase 2

We added:









WORCESTER

No bids, so district will lease some buses

Scott O'Connell Scott.O'Connell@telegram.com
Published 6:36 p.m. ET Dec. 4, 2017 | Updated 10:32 p.m. ET Dec. 4, 2017











School buses wait for dismissal Monday at Doherty Memorial High School in Worcester. [T&G Staff/Rick Cinclair] Telegram & Gazette

The Start:

Contract Term	Vendor
2015-2020	11% increase
2010-2015	15.6% increase
2005-2010	6.1% increase



Sunday, December 17, 2017

Workster, Manachusetts | Our 150d pair | ♥ Waterpandstone | € facilities.

IN A CLASS BY ITSELF

No competition for school bus contracts poses problem for local districts



School house have bette Doberty Missourial High School in Wassester at disminsal time Doc. 4, (100 bior track character)

By Sonat Spencer | Trisgian & Courts Staff

chool transportation costs bit municipal budgets hard across the state, and several communities in Central Massachusetts have been grumbling about as underlying factor as their multiyear contracts for school buses are about to go out for bid. The problem: There's no competition in the market. Despite having a number of school bus companies operating nearby, district after district contacted by the Telegram & Gazette reported usually having just one wender submit a bid.

Industry representatives use the problem stems from consolidation, with large bus companies buying out the most-and-pops that used to provide local service.

And with regulatory requirements for 60 hours of featning, paid earned. sick time and bealth insurance assessments for what is a parttime job, "it's a business that over the years has gotten more difficult to be in," said David Strong, president of the School Transportation. Association of Massachsesetts and owner of a family - run beaucompuny

School bux drivers, who typically



for Military Public Schools, char situate

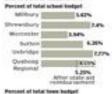
make around \$20 as hour in volunben districts and \$25 to \$50 an hour In cities, according to Mr. Strong, are hard to find as the economy improves.

Some school districts have explored partnerships with others or are considering operating their own school bus service.

On Thursday, representatives from five area districts agreed to pursue juint procurement through the Central Manuachesetts Regional Planning Communicion, as a way of pooling their buying power and nepoliating better rates.

Sec BUSES, AA

School bus budgets

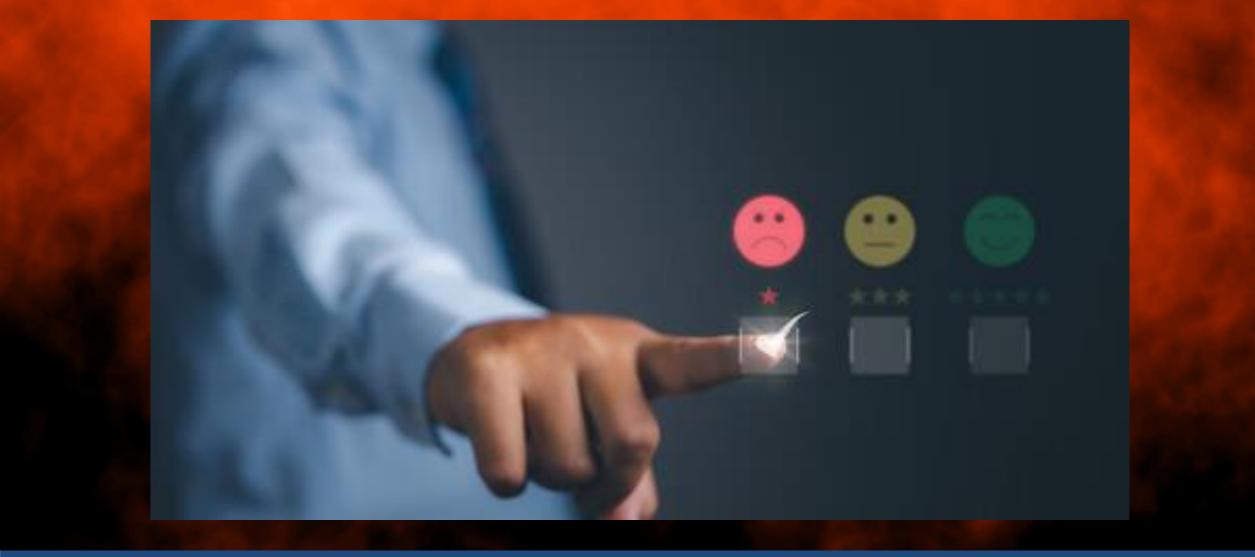


Milloury 2.57% Streetbury LEP Support | 1,38%

Wordester 242% Unbridge 3.6% Quadrang Salah After state aid

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

And then:

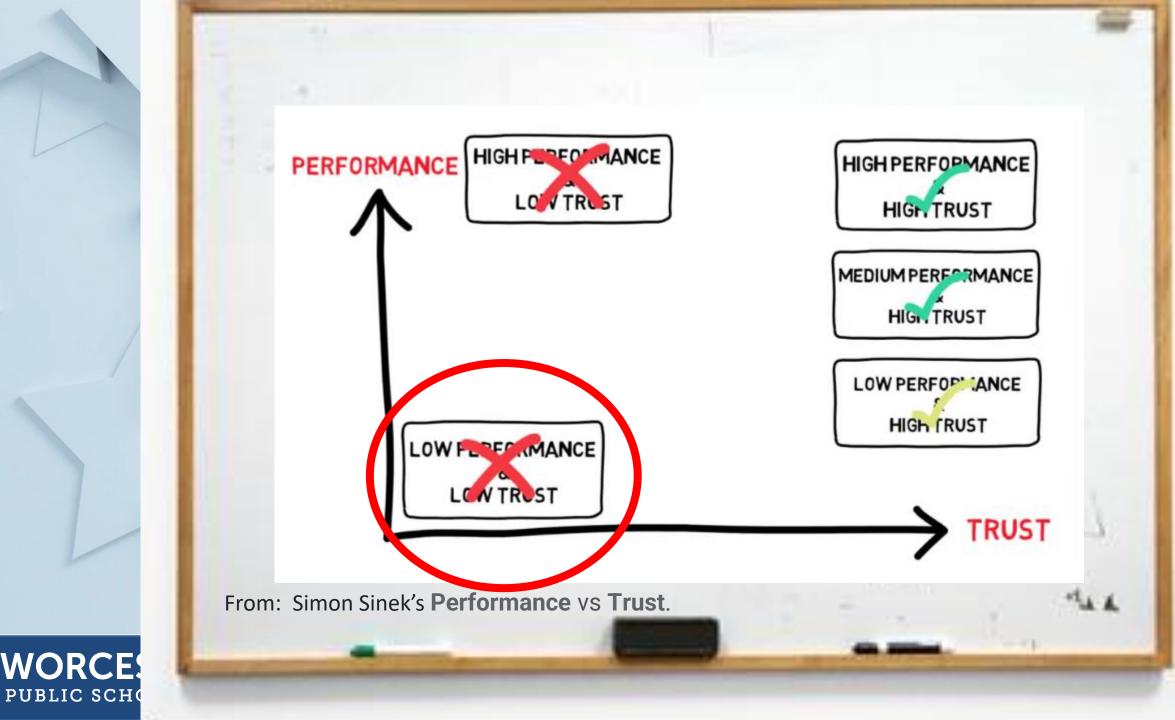




Guiding Questions:
Where are we with student transportation?
Where do we want to be with student transportation?

	Low Quality Service	High Quality Service
Low Cost		We want to be here!
High Cost	We are here!	





Your Analysis

What's most important to your district?

Customer Service

Cost



Driver Recruitment





Our response....

"Schools shouldn't be ir the transportation business"

We are very successful in district-operated school nutrition, custodians, and building maintenance.



"Vendors can get drivers from their other depots to address shortages"

The drivers we hire stay in the district and aren't shuffled around to support other districts.

Our response...



"You can't do it cheaper than a business"

We don't need to make a profit. We put students ahead of shareholders.

Our response

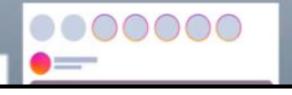


"You'll never make this work"

Ok! We agree to disagree!

Our response







Worcester withholds school bus payments over nonworking cameras, other issues

WORCESTER – The school district has been withholding payments to its busing contractor over alleged compliance issues, including some nonworking cameras on buses, according to school officials. Molly Hart, a spokeswoman f...

Nov. 22, 2015



2015 2016

2017 2018

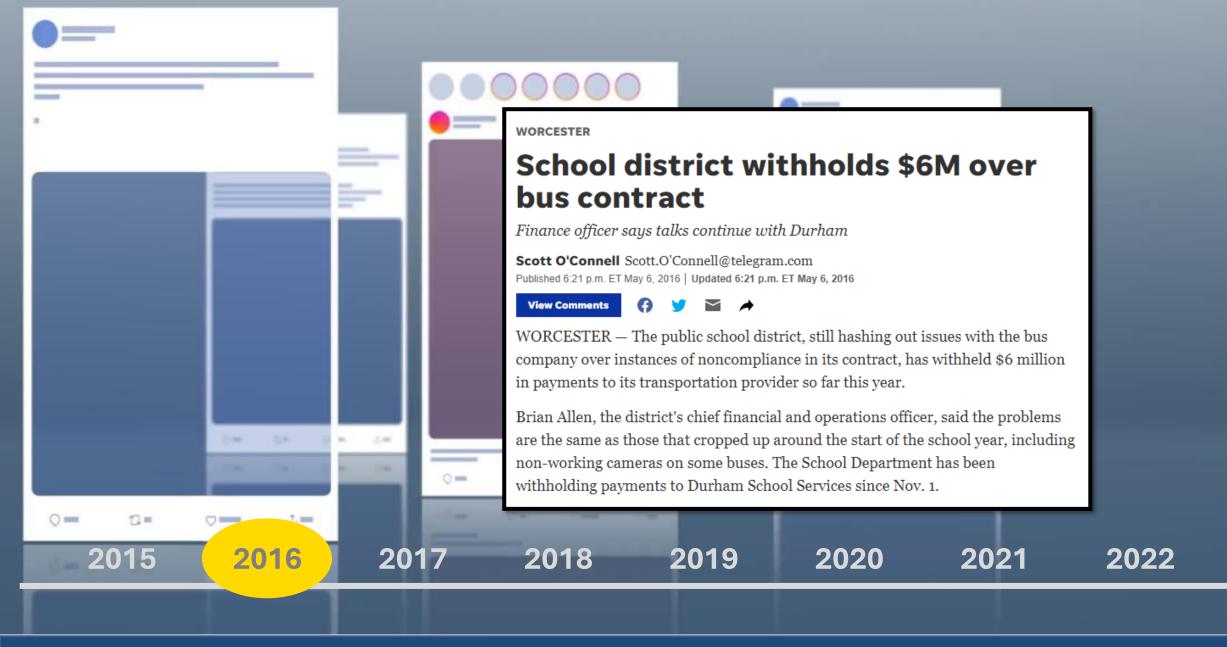
2019

2020

2021

2022













WORCESTER – A year after Durham School Services agreed to credit the school system \$200,000 for an assortment of contractual failings, the busing ... company has continued to struggle to deliver on parts of its deal, according to Jun. 12, 2017

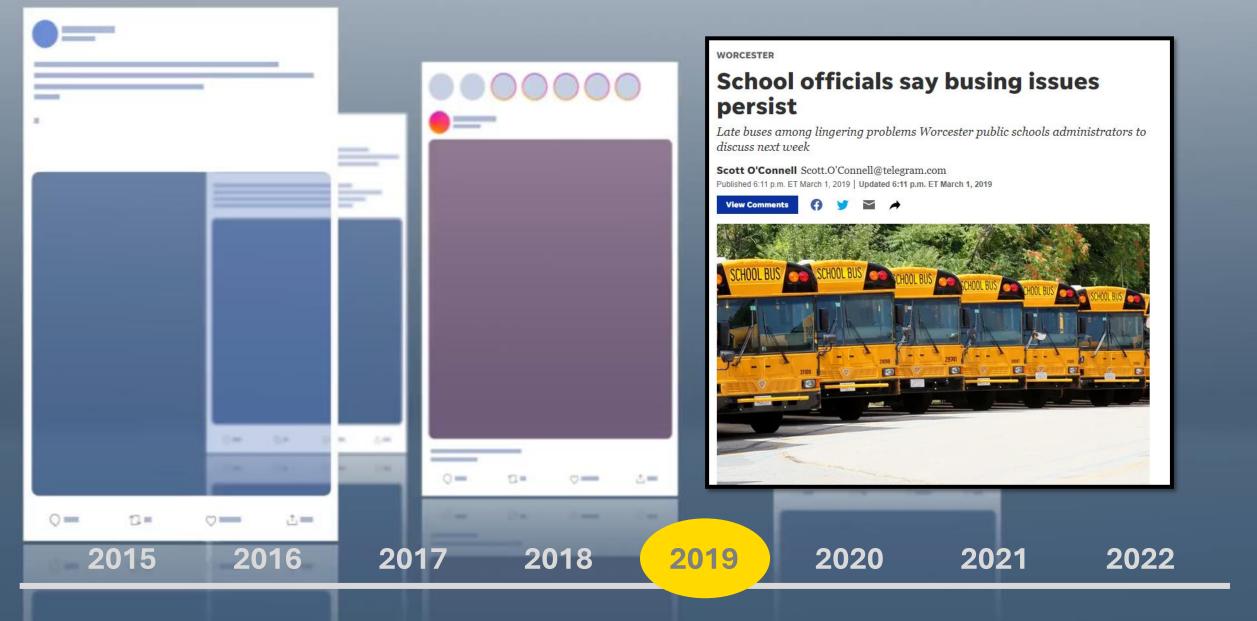






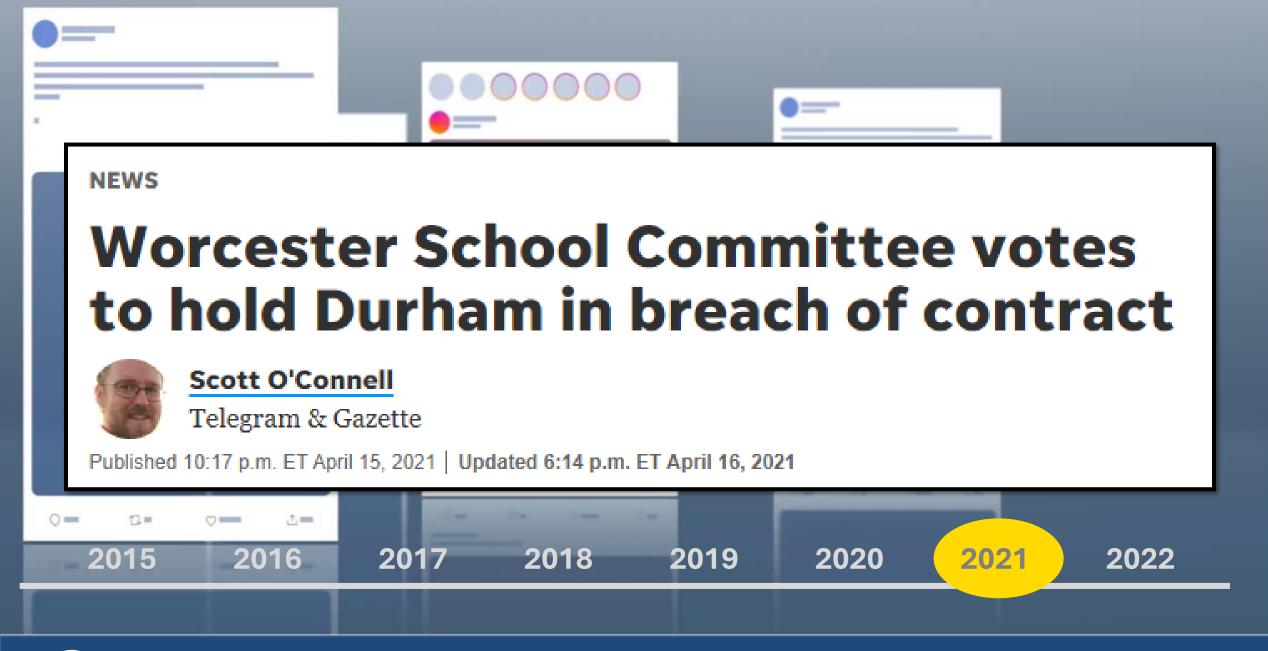




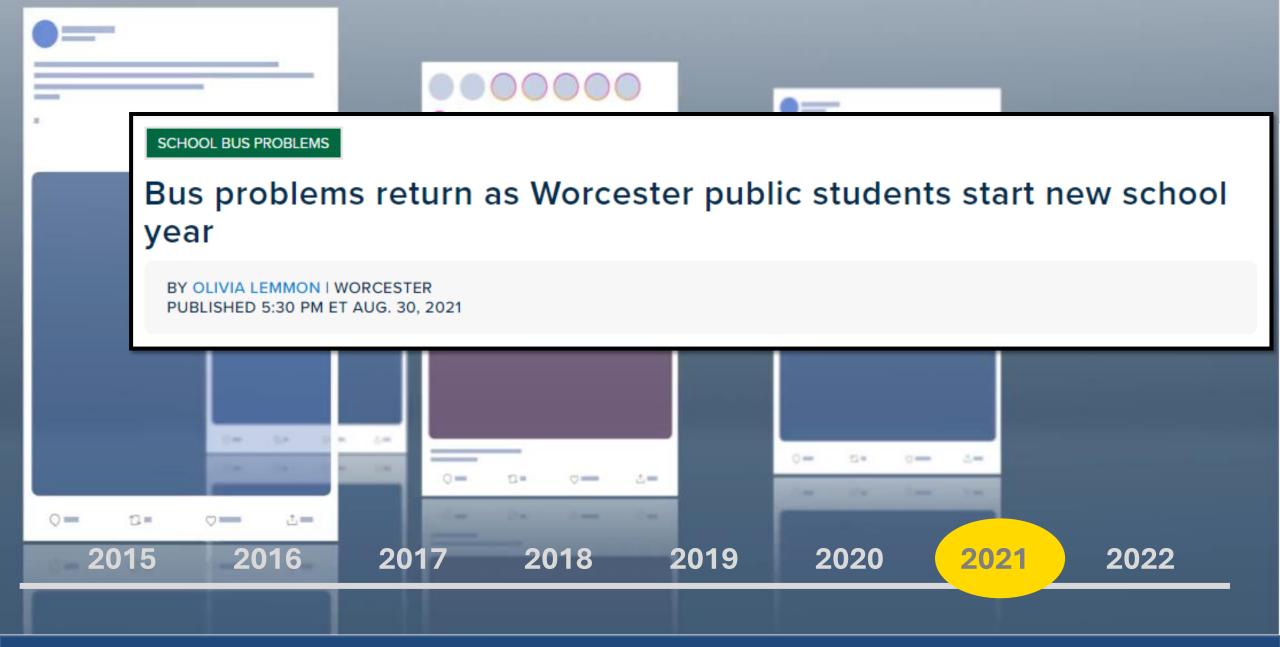




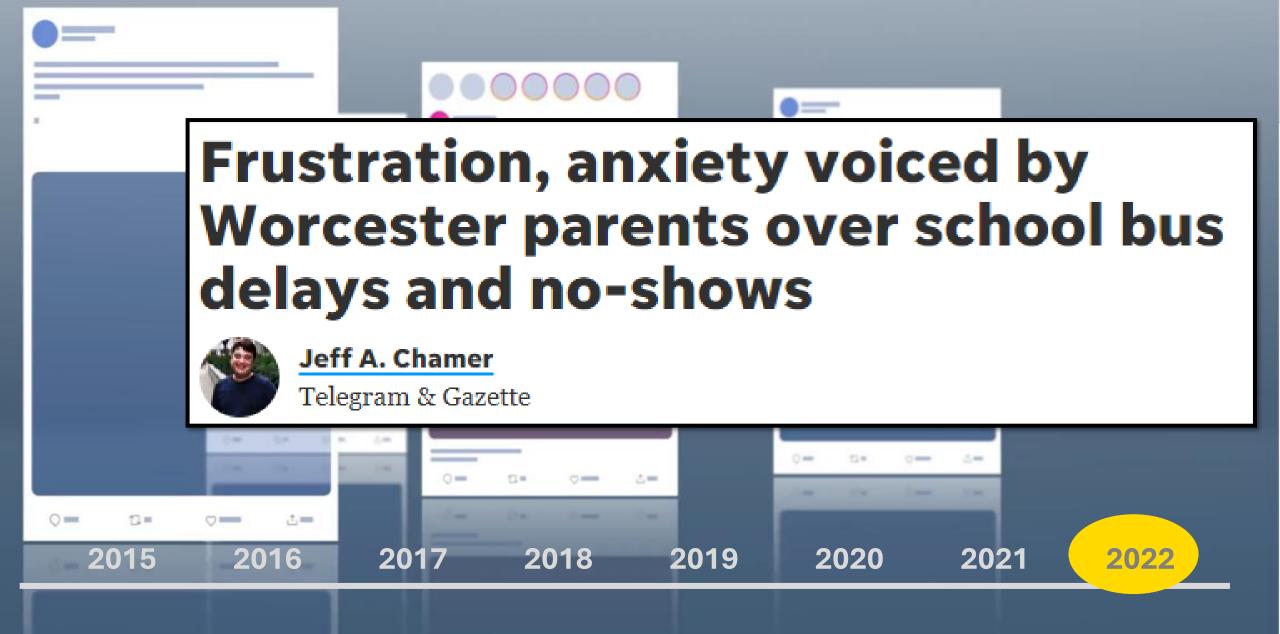
















WORCESTER

No bids, so district will lease some buses

Scott O'Connell Scott.O'Connell@telegram.com

Published 6:36 p.m. ET Dec. 4, 2017 | Updated 10:32 p.m. ET Dec. 4, 2017

View Comments











School buses wait for dismissal Monday at Doherty Memorial High School in Worcester. [T&G Staff/Rick Cinclair] Telegram & Gazette





WORCESTER

School Committee considers taking over busing operations

Worcester district's current transportation contract ends next year

Scott O'Connell Scott.O'Connell@telegram.com

Published 6:28 p.m. ET Sept. 9, 2018 | Updated 6:28 p.m. ET Sept. 9, 2018

View Comments













telegram.com

In 4-3 vote Worcester School Committee asks for cost report on district-run busing

By Scott o connell

Telegram & Gazette Staff

Posted Mar 21, 2019 at 9:26 PM Updated Mar 21, 2019 at 9:28 PM

WORCESTER – The School Committee Thursday night voted 4-3 in favor of requesting a report from the administration on the feasibility of moving the district to a self-operated busing system.



FY16

● Student Transportation: The Administration will explore the feasibility of directly providing all in-district student transportation services beginning it 2020. The analysis and recommendation will be forwarded to the School Committee in admarce of the next student transportation contract period.

Further, the current capital equipment budget funding level is insufficient to provide a reliable replacement cycle for special education buses. With 35 buses and 1-3 vehicle replacement funding per year, the Administration will need to explore the lease of vehicles through the operating budget in the near future.

FY18

Executive Summary

Student Transportation: The Administration continues to explore the feasibility of directly providing all or expanded in-district student transportation services beginning in 2018. The analysis and recommendation will be forwarded to the School Committee in classice of any recommendation for change in the level of service provided by contracted services.

FY17

Student Transportation: The Administration will explore the feasibility of directly providing all in-district student transportation services beginning it 2020. The analysis and recommendation will be forwarded to the School Committee in advance of the next student transportation contract period.

Further, the current capital equipment budget funding level is insufficient to provide a reliable replacement cycle for special education buses. With 35 buses and 1-3 vehicle replacement funding per year, the Administration will need to explore the lease of vehicles through the operating budget in the near future.

FY19

Executive Summary

The Administration is working on the following areas for future opportunities for budget stabilization or budget savings:

Executive Summary

Areas of Budget Study for Savings



Student Transportation: The Administration will pilot in-district student home-to-school and athletic transportation services beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. On-going analysis exploring the feasibility of directly providing all or further supended services will occur strough the end of 2018 with a recommendation provided to the School Committee well in advance of the end of current contract for transportation services at the end of FY20.



September 2019

School panel split on bus operation

Full Worcester board to consider whether district should run its transportation service in-house

Steven H. Foskett Jr. steven.foskett@telegram.com

Published 9:33 p.m. ET Sept. 16, 2019 | Updated 9:50 p.m. ET Sept. 16, 2019













School buses are lined up for the school year in Worcester. [T&G File Photo] Telegram & Gazette



September 2019

Chamber of Commerce urges Worcester to take over school buses

Mayor says he's leaning toward 2-year contract to further study costs

Susan Spencer Susan.Spencer@telegram.com

Published 1:21 p.m. ET Sept. 18, 2019 | Updated 6:56 p.m. ET Sept. 18, 2019

View Comments











School buses are lined up for the up-coming school year, in Worcester. Telegram & Gazette



September 2021

Raymond V. Mariano: School Committee decision to become its own bus company is misguided

Raymond V. Mariano

Published 5:03 a.m. ET Sept. 10, 2021 | Updated 9:16 a.m. ET Sept. 12, 2021



October 2019

Worcester school candidates debate busing, committee format

Scott O'Connell Scott.O'Connell@telegram.com

Published 9:24 p.m. ET Oct. 29, 2019 | Updated 9:52 p.m. ET Oct. 29, 2019

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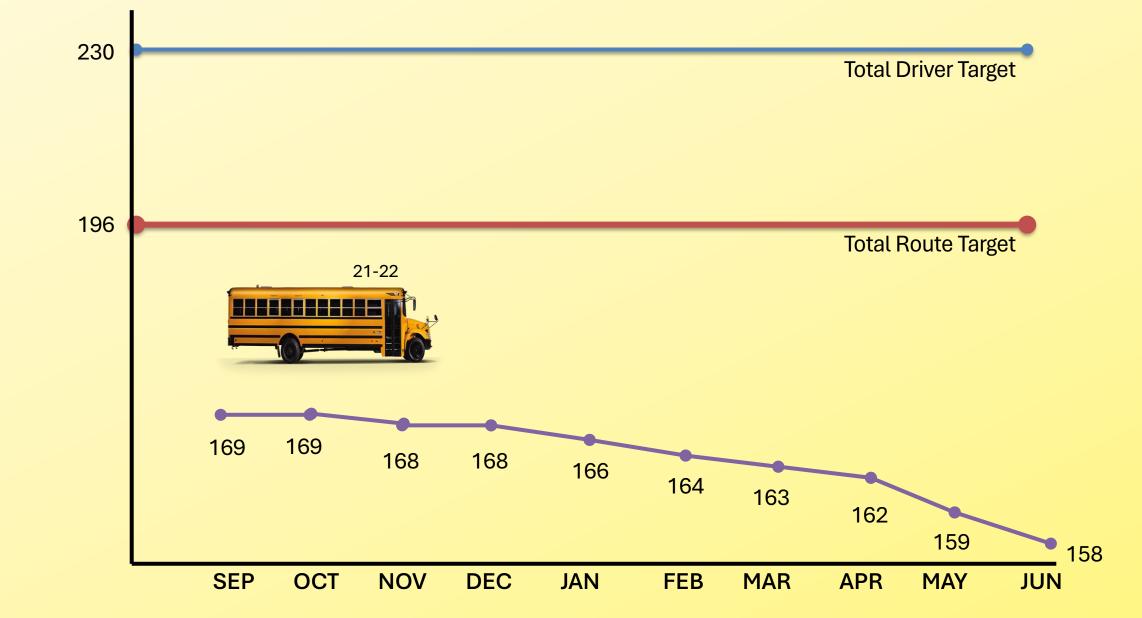






Worcester School Committee candidates are seated for a debate hosted by the Worcester NAACP on Tuesday at the Worcester Youth Center. [T&G Staff/Scott O'Connell] Telegram & Gazette







School Committee Vote Taken on

AUGUST 26, 2021

295 DAYS TO
FULL DISTRICTOPERATED
TRANSPORTATION

Against Binienda's advice, Worcester School Committee splits with bus service, will run its own

Scott O'Connell Special to the Telegram & Gazette

Published 9:36 p.m. ET Aug. 26, 2021 | Updated 9:13 a.m. ET Aug. 28, 2021













Worcester is in line to become one of the few school districts that doesn't hire a company to run its bus service. Telegram & Gazette File



In 295 Days....

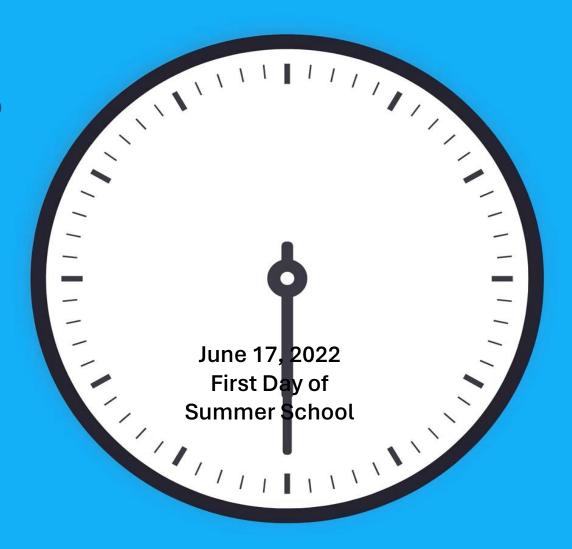


Find a location*





My Hire Bus Drivers & Monitors

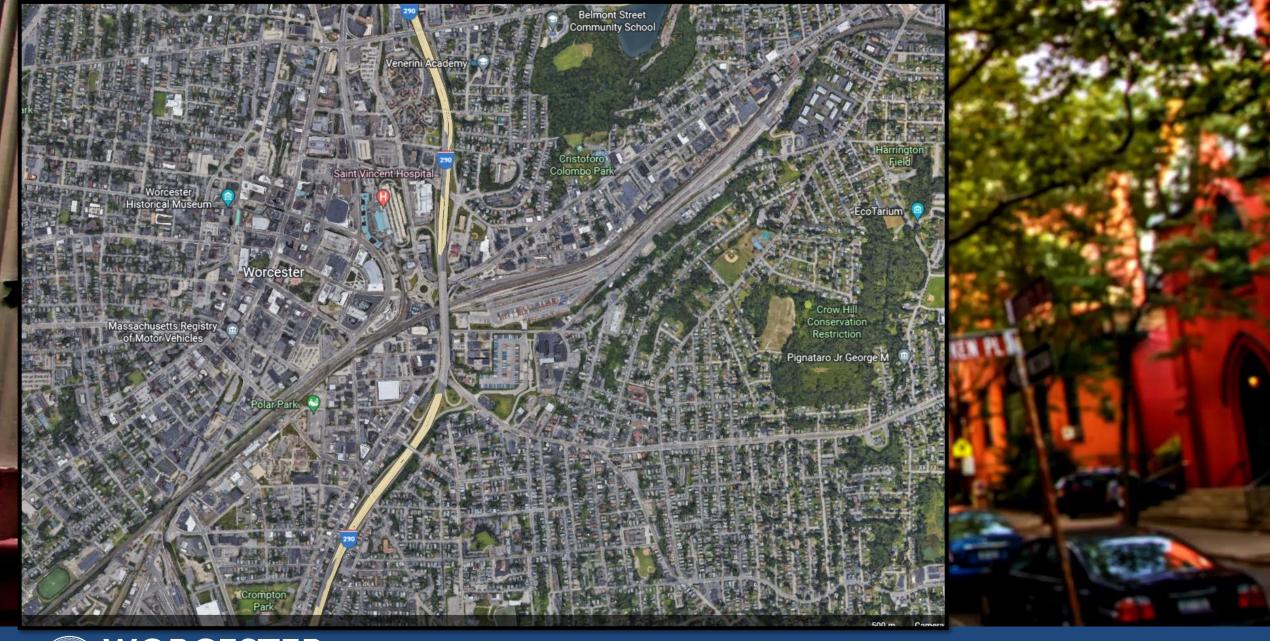














Boston, Worcester among 100 Best Cities to live, U.S. News & World Report says

Published: May. 17, 2022, 12:26 p.m.





Worcester's Canal District continues boom: 'Polar Park poured some gasoline on the fire'



Marco Cartolano

Telegram & Gazette

Published 5:56 a.m. ET April 7, 2022 | Updated 6:46 p.m. ET April 9, 2022

View Comments











Worcester's Canal District with Polar Park, left, and Madison Street leading to Kelley Square and Green Street, Harding



Worcester

The Next Wave: These three neighborhoods could be the next 'it' destinations in Worcester's renaissance

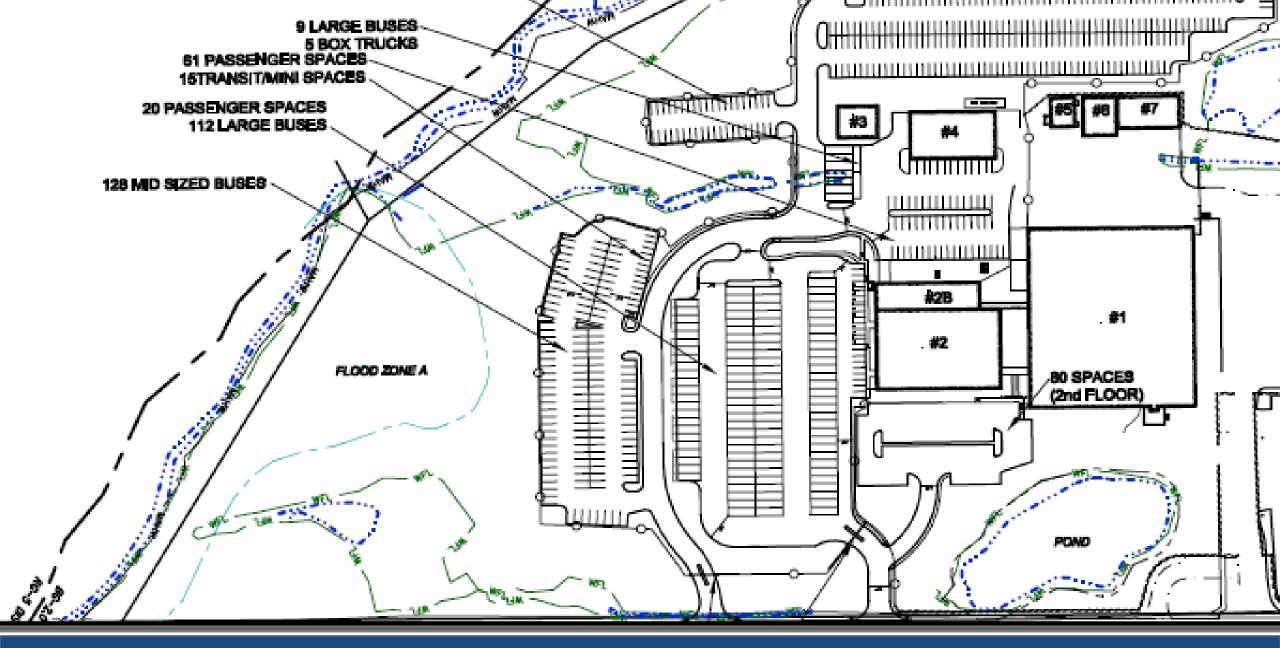
Updated: Jan. 22, 2020, 2:40 p.m. | Published: Jan. 22, 2020, 6:00 a.m.





New Tradition Company is located along Worcester's Beacon Street corridor. (Joe Gonzalez-Dufresne/photo)





Initial Project Delayed by 2 years!

First RFP Issued May 23, 2019 Final Contract Signed May 10, 2021

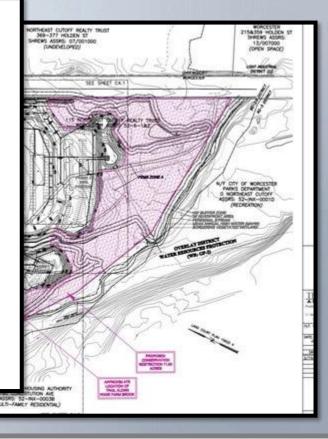
NEWS

Worcester school bus hub and conservation land are part of plans for former Allegro property

Steven H. Foskett Jr. Telegram & Gazette

Published 11:37 a.m. ET Dec. 10, 2020 Updated 11:42 a.m. ET Dec. 10, 2020

WORCESTER — Plans to redevelop the former Allegro plant on Northeast Cutoff include a city school bus depot and a conservation restriction that will connect open space parcels in the area.







Global shortage of microchips slows bus production

June 9, 2022 | by Hal Mattern | 🔎

The global shortage of microchips has hit the transportation business hard.

Demand for new transit buses has reached near-record levels in North America, fueled by increased government infrastructure funding in the United States and Canada and a surge in orders of electric vehicles.

GM, Ford halt some production as chip shortage worsens

Why the global chip shortage threatens th national security and Americans' 'status q

"It is both an economic and national security imperative to solve this crisis."



By Catherine Thorbecke January 26, 2022, 6:06 AM Hutchinson, KS

Chip shortage closes Collins Bus plant

Hutchinson News 2021-09-02

The impact of a global shortage of semiconductor chips has reached Hutchinson. Officials with Collins Bus confirmed on Thursday that the small school bus manufacturing plant in South Hutchinson has shut down. "Due to the global chip shortage, we had...



www.hutchnews.com



National Guard deployed to drive some Worcester school bus routes



Jeff A. Chamer

Telegram & Gazette

Published 2:51 p.m. ET Oct. 5, 2021 | Updated 5:12 p.m. ET Oct. 5, 2021

View Comments













A public school bus drops kids off on Flagg Street. Christine Peterson/T&G File Photo

Worcester school officials hope to fast-track local recruits to fill bus driver shortage

Scott O'Connell Special to the Telegram & Gazette Published 4:45 p.m. ET Oct. 27, 2021 | Updated 10:40 a.m. ET Oct. 28, 2021

View Comments











School Bus Driver, Mechanic Shortage Affecting Student





How the Experts Handle School Bus **Technician Shortages**













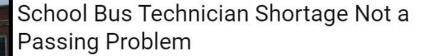












Robert T. Pudlewski March 2, 2020









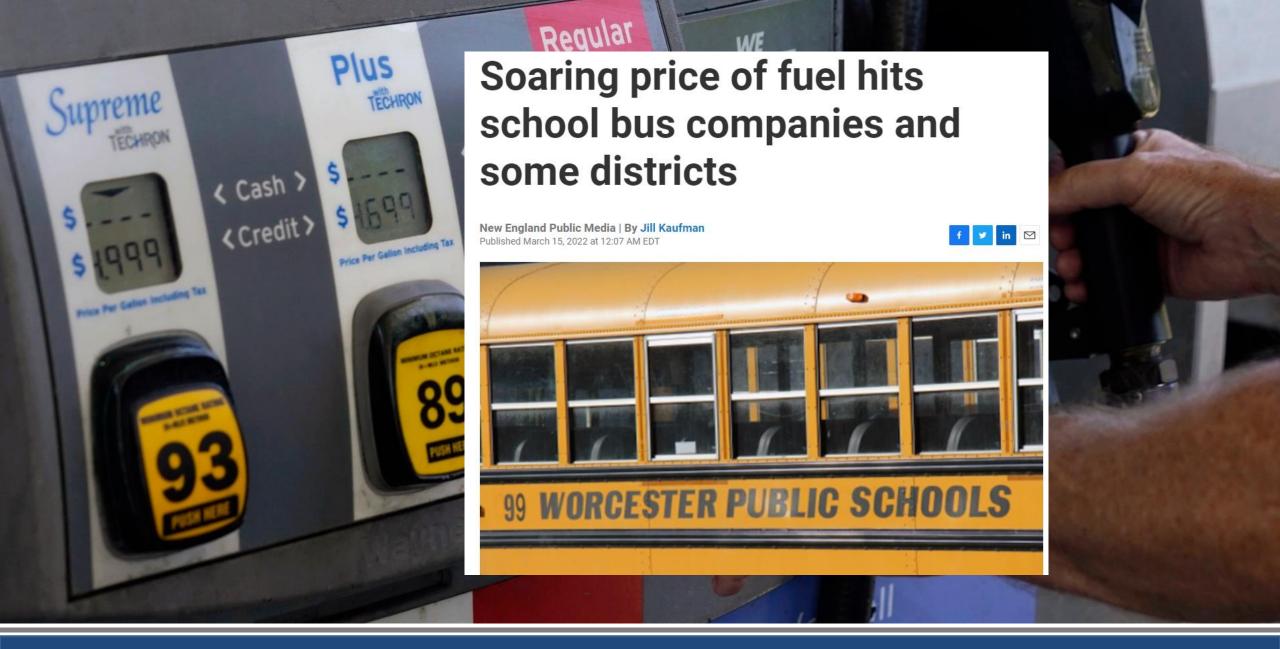














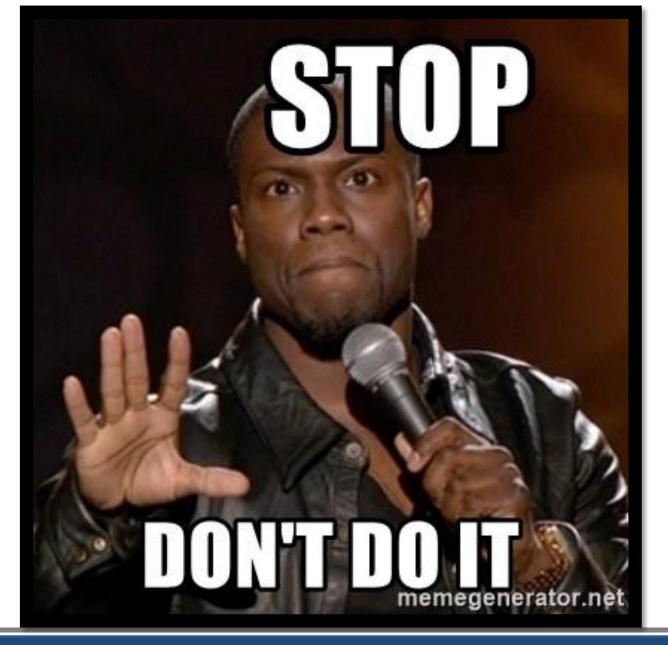














WORCESTER million in annual savings

Worcester schools hiring bus drivers, offering \$30 per hour

BY SPECTRUM NEWS STAFF | WORCESTER PUBLISHED 6:00 PM ET JUN. 22, 2022

WORCESTER, Mass. - Worcester Public Schools is hiring bus drivers for the fall.

The district is no longer using Durham School Services as their provider and now operates their own tra department.

School Committee member Jermaine Johnson said the school department is looking to fill over 100 pos district plans to offer \$30 an hour to attract more drivers and will offer in-house training

Johnson expects it to make things much smoother

\$30 PER HOUR!

full-sized bus drivers •school year calendar •5 hours a day guaranteed potential summer earnings-eligible for health benefits

Up to **\$5000** a year in supplemental earnings!

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TRANSPORTATION (508) 799-3241

or visit 115 Northeast Cutoff weekdays 8-4

TELEGRAM & GAZET TE

Looking for work?

How about driving school bus for the city at \$30 an hour

Jeff A. Chemer

ication is much better because we're d

Durham and find out what's going on. questions about transportation: 'What'

where we don't have to go out looking for that

ummer. To apply for a bus driver position with

Womenter Trängram & Capette USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCHSTER - As of Friday, July 1, the person behind the wheel of Woodster public school buses will have a new title: City employee.

If also marks the date that transportation comes fully in-bruse for the school district and the start of students riding district-owned buses.

Chief Financial and Operations Offion Brian Allensaidhe was, "oxited and house transportation, the district has looking forward to really providing bettercustomer service to our students and See BUS, Page 9A

families seing forward."

Since the School Committee voted to and the district's contract with lengtime busing provider Durham School Secvices last year and instead provide in-



Safety and training Talson Dawn Cavanaugh, center, instructs new bires on doing pre-ride impactions at the city's bus lot Wedneeday. KICK CHICLA STRESSAME GAZETTS.

BUS DRIVERS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS





60 Drivers Trained through MassHire Program

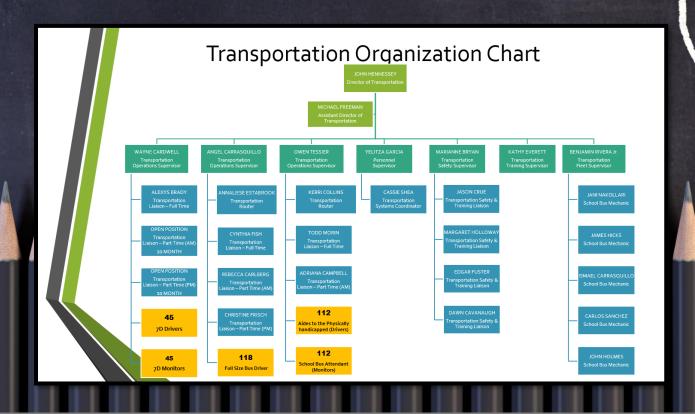
Night Life Continuing Ed Collaborates with Partners to **Resolve Bus Driver Shortage**

Worcester Public Schools' (WPS) Night Life Continuing Education program is partnering with other community organizations to recruit, train, and employ bus drivers for the district, as the profession

has been short on workers since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. PUOF PO?



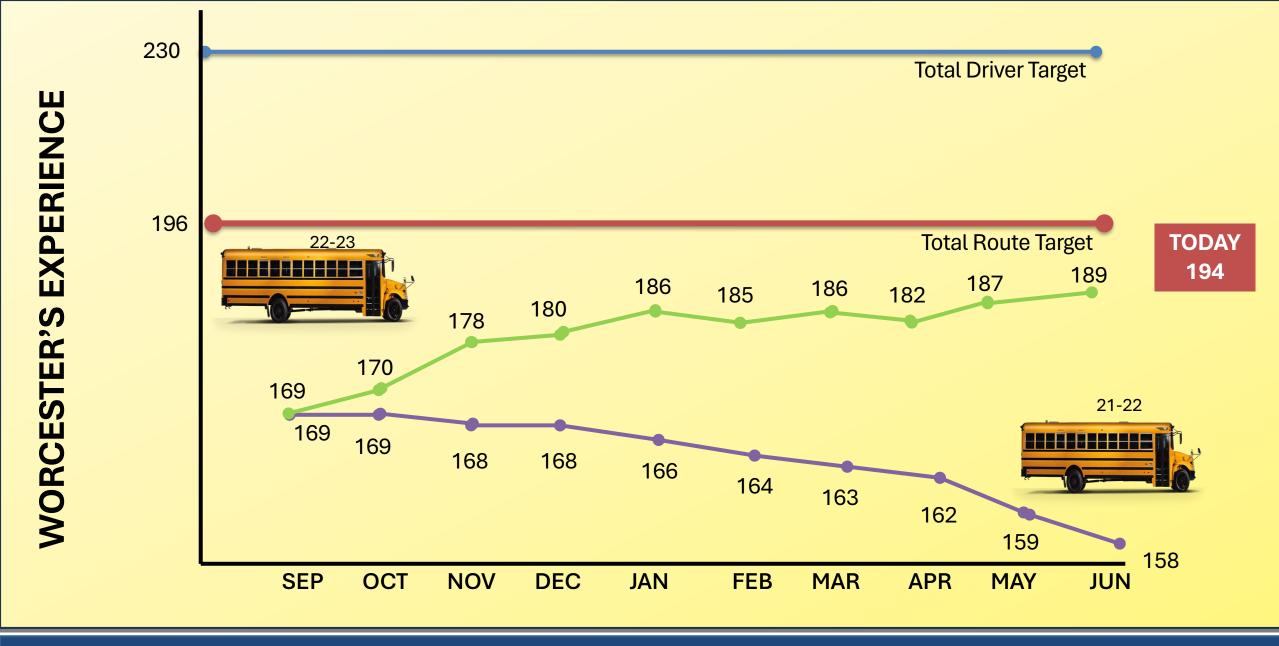
Invested Portion of Savings in Customer Service & Training



6 Full Time Safety & Training Staff

3 FT and 5 PT
Dispatchers &
Customer Service
Staff





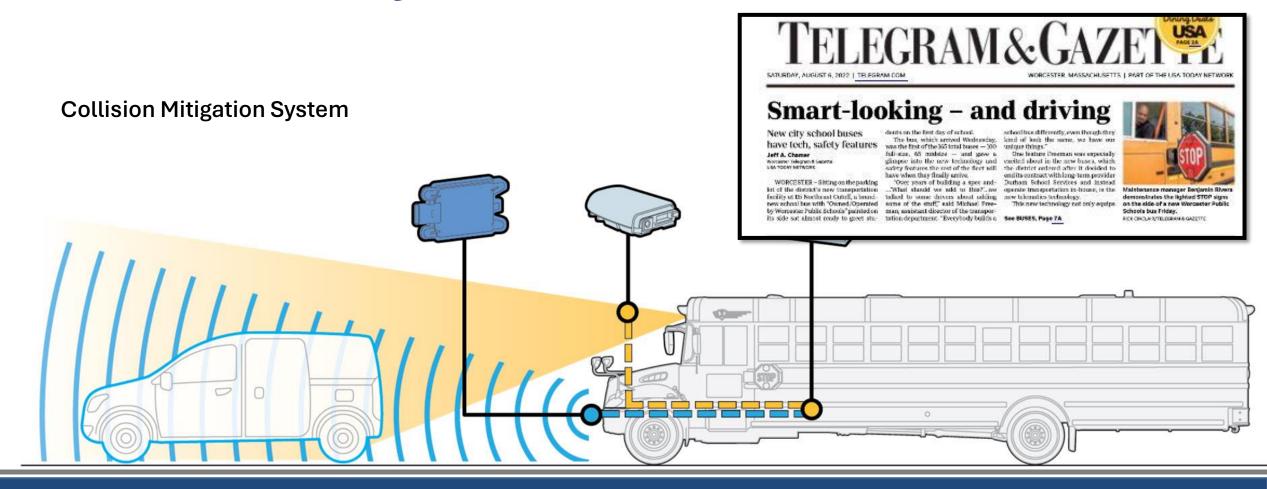








First Light Safety Illuminated School Bus Sign and Stop Arm















First of 100 New Sch

Latest technology, safety features ready for Worcester students as new buses arrive

NEWS

'An amazing sight': New Worcester buses, eager drivers roll out for first day of school



Jeff A. Chamer

Telegram & Gazette

Published 12:38 p.m. ET Aug. 29, 2022 | Updated 3:07 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2022















SCHOOL BUSES

Smooth start to year two of Worcester Public Schools bus operations, superintendent says

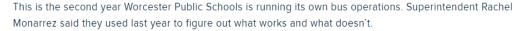


BY SPECTRUM NEWS STAFF | WORCESTER PUBLISHED 10:16 AM ET AUG. 30, 2023



WORCESTER, Mass. - Students and teachers in Worcester are now three days into the school year, and for the most part, the district says buses have been on time.





Bussing companies in the area and across the country are reporting a shortage of drivers, but in Worcester, Monarrez said they not only have more drivers this year, but they also have more buses too.

One Year Later August 19, 2023

Worcester starting school year with uptick in bus drivers over last year



Jeff A. Chamer

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Published 5:05 a.m. ET Aug. 19, 2023 | Updated 7:40 a.m. ET Aug. 21, 2023

View Comments













Athletic & Field Trip Savings

reduction in the cost of Athletic & Field Trip transportation costs



Savings

Added \$600,000 to Instructional Supplies & Materials





In Year 1:

76% reduction in complaints from schools and parents in the first year

























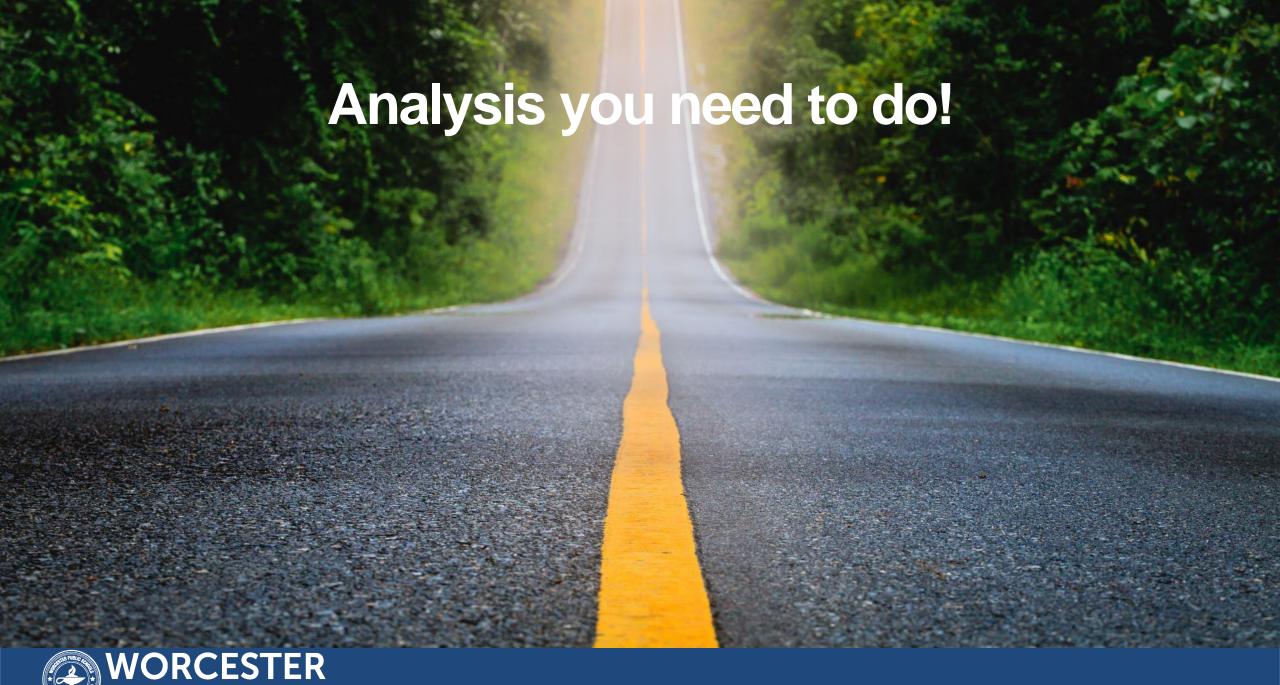
















Bus Drivers

- -\ How Many?
- Substitutes/Spares
- Hourly Rate
- Hours/Days Worked
 - Holidays, PTO
 - Summer, Training, OT
- Benefits





Bus Monitors/Aides

How Many?

Substitutes/Spares

Hourly Rate

Hours/Days Worked

Holidays, PTO

ESY, Training, OT

Benefits







Support Staff

- Supervisors
- Safety/Trainers
- Dispatchers,
 Office Staff
- Training Materials





Mechanics

- Number
- Hours Hourly Rate
- Hours/Days Worked3
 - Tools & Equipment





- Purchase/Lease
- Maintenance
 - Tires
 - Batteries
 - Lights
 - Oil
- Insurance



Location

- Parking
- Office Space, Driver Space
- Furniture, Computers,
 - **Printers**
- Utilities & Internet
 - **Custodial and**

Maintenance & Trash





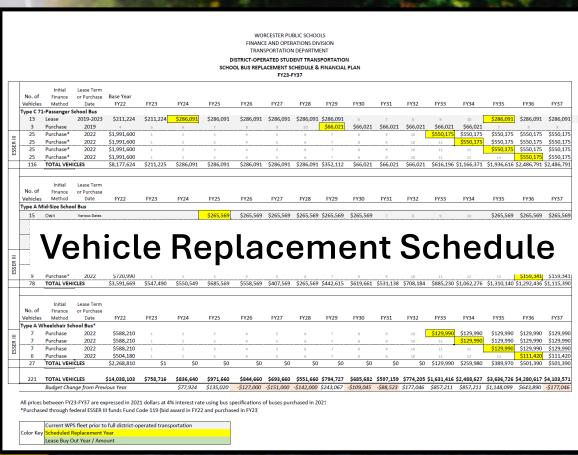


Fuel

- Type
- Location
- Cost
- Equipment
- Maintenance







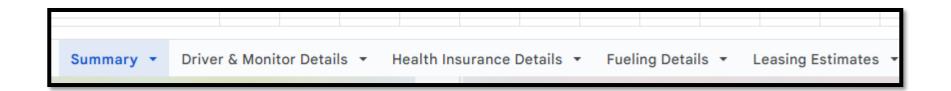


District-Operated Costs	Base Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Salaries											
Transportation Director											
Transportation Assistant Director											
Operations Supervisors											
Safety Trainers											
Dispatchers/Customer Service											
Routers											
Office Support Staff											
Office Support Staff Overtime											
Full Size Bus Drivers											
Mid Size Bus Drivers											
Wheelchair Bus Drivers											
Bus Monitors											
Bus Driver Overtime											
Bus Monitor Overtime											
Van Drivers											
Van Drivers Overtime											
Maintenance Supervisor											
Mechanics											
Mechanic Overtime Costs											
Summer Program Salaries											
Athletic Transportation Salaries											
Field Trip Salaries											
Training Costs											
Other Transportation Services Additional Costs											
Employee On Boarding Costs											
Other Employee Costs											
District/Central Office Additional Support (IT, HR, etc.)											

District-Operated Costs	Base Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	<u>Year 10</u>
Employee Benefits											
Health Insurance											
Workers Compensation											
Unemployment Compensation											
Retirement Costs											
OPEB Costs											
Employment Taxes (If applicable)											
Other Benefit Costs											

District-Operated Costs	Base Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Vehicle Costs											
Full Size Bus Lease Cost											
Mid Size Bus Lease Cost											
Wheelchair Bus Lease Costs											
Fuel - All Vehicles											
Vehicle Insurance											
Tires											
Batteries											
Oil Changes											
Tools and Supplies											
Other Vehicle Maintenance											
Other Vehicle Costs											

District-Operated Costs	Base Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	<u>Year 10</u>
Building Costs											
Buildings Lease (Operations, Maintenance)											
Building Insurance											
Building Utilities											
Building Maintenance											
School Bus Maintenance Equipment											
Telephone and Cellphone Services											
Internet Services											
Custodial Services											
Custodial Supplies											
Trash Removal											
Fuel Pump Lease and Maintenance											
Other Costs											
Routing Software											
Copiers, Printers, Computers											
Computer Network Equipment											
Telephone Hardware											
Radios (Dispatch)											
Training Materials											
Driver Uniforms											
Mechanics Uniforms											
Safety Vests											
Office Supplies											
Other Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment											
Relocation Costs											
Projected Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Difference	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$(



Do you want to do the analysi



You will be asked to make a copy of the *Transportation*

Self Op Cost
Guide Google
Sheet

