COO NEWS - February 2014

IN THE KNOW



Navigating the roads of Denver is a complex task for even an everyday commuter. For DPS Transportation Services, each year that task is magnified and takes a team of highly-skilled, trained and knowledgeable individuals to fit all the pieces together. Beyond creating and successfully executing routes, it takes a collaborative effort by a strong team within the Denver Public Schools (DPS) and Transportation Services that is essential to ensuring *Every Child Succeeds*.

- Together. Forward. DPS Transportation Services' mission is to provide valued services to our DPS schools, departments, students and families as efficiently, effectively and safely as possible. Working together with our schools and departments ultimately provides the support necessary to move education forward.
- Educators on Wheels. Transportation personnel are the first and last person our students engage with every day. These individuals serve as role models and mentors for our students, as well as cheerleaders who provide support and encourage good behavior and accountability in their school work and attendance each day.
- Safety is Key. DPS Transportation Services understands the
 responsibility for providing a safe ride for all students in the safest
 manner possible. More than 37,000 students begin and end their day
 on the school bus. Their safety is always our top priority.

By the Numbers

- 37,388 students transported approximately per day
- 322 buses on the road daily
- 1,166 bus routes run daily
- 3.4 million miles driven per year
- 6.7 million passengers transported
 - Includes educational-use, excursions, after-school activities and athletics.
- 500+ dedicated employees on the Transportation Team

Tools for Success:

In Transportation Services, we find our road maps and guides to be our best tools of knowing where to go and who to call. Here is your Roadmap to DPS Transportation Services with information regarding our support services.

IN THE NEWS

Have You Heard of the +Pass?



The +Pass program is another resource that DPS is utilizing to not only ensure the safety of every child, but to realize our vision of Every Child Succeeds. +Pass now provides accurate and instant student ridership information for transportation staff, parents and school staff.

Driven by Shared Core Values

More than 38,000 students begin and end their day on DPS school buses. **STUDENTS FIRST** and their safety is our top priority, and the +Pass is a valuable resource to enhance the quality of transportation services for our DPS families. The +Pass provides **EQUITY** to all transportation-eligible students in the district as these students all receive their passes free of charge. During the Spring and Fall, Transportation Services personnel **COLLABORATED** with every school in DPS to get trained on the +Pass program. We demonstrate **INTEGRITY** through a comprehensive system that is in



place to objectively evaluate data and make informed decisions regarding transportation services. Our goal is for everyone in DPS to demonstrate **ACCOUNTABILITY** for the success of the +Pass, and promote active usage among students, parents, employees and administrators. Schools and DPS Transportation are working together to find **FUN** and creative ways to positively acknowledge and encourage students to use their passes every day.

+Pass Information Now Available in Parent Portal: DPS parents now have access to real-time ridership information on their student(s) at their fingertips via the Parent Portal.

The +Pass was also featured by several local and national TV stations as a new, innovative safety tool DPS is providing to our families and schools. Here are a few interviews on +Pass that occurred at Escalante Biggs in the fall 2013.

- CBS Story (aired locally and nationally)
- <u>Denver Post Story</u>

For more information, visit http://transportation.dpsk12.org/pass/.

IN THE COMMUNITY







Rain, snow or shine – the Transportation Services team is always there to support our Shared Core Value of **STUDENTS FIRST!** At the Northeast terminal, DPS student Israel Romero has been getting on-the-job training from maintenance techs in the shop through the Career Connect program. Meanwhile at our Hilltop terminal, high school students in the Monica's Kids program job-shadowed our maintenance team to learn the in's and out's of school bus maintenance.



COLLABORATION Equation: Transportation also supports several district-wide initiatives and school activities. In December, Transportation participates in helping transport DPS kindergarteners to St. Thomas Moore to celebrate in the Season of Giving. We also assist in transporting choirs from different campuses to participate in DPS Holiday Cheer at various administrative buildings across the district. In January, bus drivers worked together to transport nearly 2,000 DPS students on 52 school buses to the annual DPS MLK Day at Manual High School.

DPS Transportation takes the Shared Core Value of **FUN** to heart! DPS Transportation recently accepted a friendly challenge by the Clover Park School District in Washington via Thomas Built Buses of showing off their best team spirit! The team really showed **COLLABORATION** and organized a United in Orange day to show that the 2013 AFC Champion Denver Broncos have the best fans!



FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

DPS has the largest pupil transportation fleet in Colorado, which services 155 square miles. We maintain a fleet of more than 404 buses (active and spare), as well as 360 service vehicles that are used by a variety of school and administrative employees. Safety is the primary concern for all of our vehicle maintenance and services, while at the same time supporting the safest method of transportation for our students to and from school. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), "American students are nearly eight times safer riding in a school bus than in cars with their own parents and guardians."



Transportation Services has an abiding interest in supporting access to an outstanding education and is fully committed to supporting our DPS students and families. The development, maintenance, and delivery of transportation services can often be compared to working a jigsaw puzzle. Each school becomes a piece of that puzzle that we must figure into the service model using our existing logistics and resources to ensure we can support student achievement.

While we are in the business of safely planning and driving yellow buses, we are most proud of helping drive and support our students to reach their goals and succeed!