

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: May 9, 2006

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston

SUBJECT: **TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

ORIGINATOR: J. Robert Haines, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

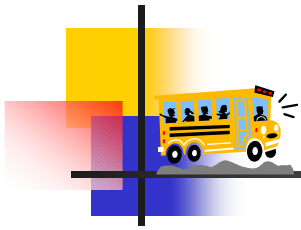
**RESOURCE
PERSON(S):** Don Dent, Executive Director, Dept. of Planning and Support Operations
Linda Fitchett, Director, Office of Transportation

INFORMATION

That the Board of Education receives the Transportation Report that provides a comprehensive overview of the operations within the Office of Transportation.

The attached report will provide Board members with an understanding of how safe, effective and efficient transportation services support the mission of Baltimore County Public Schools for students as outlined in the *Blueprint for Progress*.

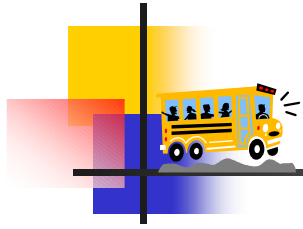
Attachment I - PowerPoint™ Presentation



Baltimore County Public Schools

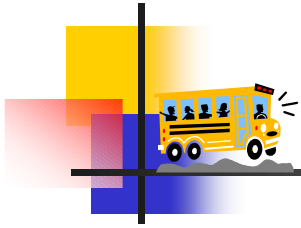


Office of Transportation



Mission Statement

The Mission of the Baltimore County Public Schools' Office of Transportation is to provide safe and efficient school transportation services in an environment that fosters positive social interaction and allows students to be successful learners.



Safety

Service

Efficiency



School Buses

- School buses must meet federal, MSDE, and Motor Vehicle Administration specifications for safety.
- School buses must undergo three annual visual inspections and one annual bumper to bumper, wheels-off inspection.
- School buses are inspected whenever a concern is expressed by a driver, parent, supervisor, or school administrator.
- COMAR requires school buses to be withdrawn from service after 12 years.



School Bus Drivers – Pre-Certification

School bus drivers must meet all federal, MSDE, and local pre-certification requirements which include:

1. Satisfactory lifetime driving history.
2. Criminal background check.
3. Negative pre-employment drug test.
4. Department of Transportation (DOT) physical.
5. Commercial drivers license (CDL) with passenger and school bus endorsements.
6. Minimum of nine hours behind-the-wheel instruction.
7. Minimum of six hours classroom instruction.



School Bus Drivers – Annual Certification

School bus drivers must maintain annual certification requirements as outlined below:

1. Driving record with no more than three current points.
2. Participate in random drug and alcohol testing program.
3. Annual DOT physical.
4. Minimum of six hours in-service instruction.
5. Not more than 2 preventable accidents involving personal injury or appreciable damage within 24 months.
6. Bi-annual on-board observation by driver instructor or supervisor.



Safe Driving Awards

For each year a driver has an accident-free year, they receive a *Safe Driving Award*.

For the 2004 - 2005 school year, the Office of Transportation distributed 652 safe driving awards as follows:

- 30 or more years - 31 drivers
- 20 or more years - 54 drivers
- 10 or more years - 169 drivers
- 1 or more years - 398 drivers



Service

2004 – 2005 School Year

- 69,753 students transported daily
- 793 routes
- 14,731,447 miles traveled
- Master Plan Goal of 90% on-time service to the instructional program.





Students

The Office of Transportation participated in the development of the Baltimore County Public Schools *Positive Behavior Management Handbook* for students.

School bus drivers work with school administrators as part of the school staff to:

- Create expectations for safe student behavior
- Maintain regular communication regarding student behavior management
- Monitor bus rides, bus stops and routes

The school bus is an extension of the school building.



Routes

- Bus routes, bus stop locations, and recommended walking routes are evaluated each year.
- Each concern brought forth by a parent, administrator, bus driver, or student is reviewed by a transportation supervisor.
- The Office of Transportation works with the Baltimore County Police Department for appropriate placement of crossing guards.





Service

The Office of Transportation provides instruction to students, parents, and school administrators with:

- *Guidelines for School Administrators*
- *School Bus Guide for Students and Parents*
- Buster the Bus





Bus routes are developed to maximize the number of students moved in a specific span of time or miles.

Bell schedules are determined by the Office of Transportation and are driven by our ability to move students efficiently, keeping in mind:

- School bell times are tiered in order to maximize the number of trips (schools) that each bus can complete during the morning and afternoon operating hours
- The earliest high school bell time is 7:30 a.m., and the latest elementary school dismissal time is 3:50 p.m.



Efficiency

The size of the bus fleet is impacted by:

- Program growth
- Program locations
- Service exceptions
- The delivery of students on time to the instructional program.
- Reducing on-board time.