

Spotlight on School Transportation

It is important that our students arrive to school in a safe manner, on time, and ready to learn. The Dover Schools transportation department plays a key role in this.

Ohio law requires districts to provide transportation for resident elementary students, kindergarten through grade eight, who live more than two miles from the school and for all students with disabilities that make walking impossible or unsafe. Transportation must also be provided from Dover High School to Buckeye Career Center, and transportation for non-public school students must be the same as provided to resident students. Dover Schools goes well beyond these minimum requirements to see that all students have safe, dependable transportation on a daily basis.

Our transportation department works around the clock at times to serve our students and meet their unique needs. This department for Dover Schools consists of our transportation director, one full-time and one part-time administrative assistant, ten route drivers, two van drivers, and one mechanic. This group is skilled, compassionate, and dedicated to serving our children and families. They do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Our drivers transport, on average, 1,110 students per day -- an increase of 240 students daily from last school year. On daily routes, buses are driven, on average, 3,608 miles per week. However, these regular daily routes are not the whole story. Students in preschool through senior high are involved in many activities that require transportation. Whether it is a class field trip, an evening or weekend sporting event, a performance, or off-site volunteer opportunity, our drivers work additional hours to get our students where they need to be. In the 2018-19 school year, these 580 extra trips totaled 38,665 miles and 2,947 hours of work for our drivers.

Local districts all face transportation challenges. An improved economy has contributed to a shortage of substitute drivers. Our transportation director works diligently to recruit and retain drivers. Transportation to daycare, babysitters, and adapting to varied family schedules requires clear and continuous communication so that our students arrive safely to their destinations. We work hard to meet the needs of our families.

In Dover, we are thankful for our transportation department. Our twelve bus and van drivers have a total of 111 years of driving experience in Dover. One of our drivers, Bobbi Haney, has been transporting Dover students for over 32 years, and the relationships she has built with our families span generations.

All employees of Dover Schools contribute to the district's success. Our transportation department tirelessly works from sunrise to sunset to take care of our students. Whether it is a friendly greeting as they board the bus in the morning, cheering them on at a sporting event, or providing an encouraging word at the end of the day, the work of those who transport our Dover students is recognized and appreciated.