

Community Input on Pupil Transportation Services

1. During November-December, 2014, 724 parents/guardians completed surveys regarding transportation services. The results of the survey are summarized below:

- Location (38%), and academic programs offered by the school (41%), emerged as the most important issues affecting parents' decisions for selecting a school. Fifty-five percent (55%) of the respondents said the distance of the school and safety were the main reasons transportation was important. Thirty percent (30%) indicated convenience was most important.
- Since only 14% of respondents said their child(ren) walk to school, 77% indicated that transportation was very important. However, parents were reluctant to change schools even if transportation was no longer available, with 60% indicating they would not change schools.
- Mobility is an important factor with 31% of students changing their residence since starting at the school. Most families (68%) live less than 3 miles from school. Of those living more than 3 miles, 62% live more than 4 miles from school. Many parents (35%) drive their child(ren) to school.
- When offered a choice between reducing transportation and using the savings to improve academics at their child(ren)'s school, a majority of respondents (65%) preferred keeping their existing transportation services. Two-thirds (67%) of respondents believed that transportation availability was important for their child's academic performance.

2. The district again solicited community feedback input in the fall of 2017, via a survey that was distributed in hard copy and pushed out electronically to the community on December 15, 2017. Approximately 7,214 responses were recorded in total.

Of those responses:

- 51.6% responded as a parent/guardian
- 33.0% responded as an MPS employee
- 9.7% responded as a student
- 5.6% responded as community member

The transportation priority preferences indicated the following:

- More access to busing outside the walk zone
- Safer passages for walking
- Shorter ride times
- Smaller walk zones

Takeaways:

- Parents view transportation as necessary service that is important in their choice of schools, in the safety of their child(ren) and in their child(ren)'s academic success. Any actions the district takes should maintain parental choice, increase the likelihood that students can walk safely to school and since most students live less than 3 miles from school, transportation policies should align to address student mobility needs as well less time riding on the school bus.