



Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

September 19, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Throughout these opening weeks of school, I have become aware of ongoing transportation challenges across Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). I want you to know that we are doing everything under our control to improve transportation services.

However, our issues are compounded by our chronic bus driver shortage and high turnover on specific routes, including your child's assigned route. Your child's bus route does not currently have an assigned driver and we are covering the route through other means, including substitute drivers and splitting routes. Unfortunately, there will likely be delayed arrivals and drop-offs until further notice. We are doing our best to minimize the impact on instruction and ensure as close to on-time arrival as possible each day.

While I do not expect these issues to last all year, I want to share some insight into the challenges we face in recruiting bus drivers. We not only face high competition from large neighboring school systems, but public transit systems and commercial truck driving opportunities as well. These problems impact school systems across our region and nationwide — and regrettably, they lack a quick resolution.

In the meantime, we are working to improve communication and provide better information on projected pickup and drop-off times. When possible, school administrators may send updates through e-alerts and text messages. Please contact the Transportation Phone Bank for assistance with bus stop changes and related issues at 301-952-6570, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For problems after regular office hours, call School Security at 301-499-7000.

I understand your anxiety and anger over late or missed buses, and I personally apologize to any parent who has been inconvenienced over these last few weeks. Please be assured that bus driver recruitment remains our urgent priority. I ask for your continued patience. We will update you as more information becomes available.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica E. Goldson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer