



**HEMPFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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## Hempfield Area Announces Transportation Updates for 2019-2020

Plans are underway for the 2019-2020 school year in regards to student transportation. There will be consistency with First Student continuing to provide full-size school bus transportation for the next five years. A few areas of change will include the addition of DMJ for the transportation of students using mini buses and vans, an increase in the number of cameras installed on full size buses for safety measures, a new App for parents to track the location of their child's bus, and a slight modification to the dismissal time of middle school students.

First Student is working with the District to optimize operations and increase safety measures. Presently, cameras are installed on nearly half of the fleet and record audio and visual footage for safety and disciplinary purposes. Every full size bus will include two cameras beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, with the additional camera providing increased monitoring of the bus entrance for safety purposes. An additional feature starting in the Fall of the 2019-2020 school year for full size buses will be the incorporation of an App called First View. Parents will have the capability of viewing the location of their child's bus in route to and from school, with projected arrival times.

Routing will continue to have a maximum ridership time of fifty minutes. Seating capacity of a full size bus is seventy-two, which is not ideal for older students. Therefore, middle and high school routes will have an average ridership of forty-eight students, with elementary being higher.

Route reduction has been an area of continued attention as the cost to operate a full size school bus for a school year is \$50,500. With the decreasing student enrollment, reductions have been occurring for several years in the number of full size buses. Six buses will be reduced for the 2019-2020 school year. The high school will be impacted with six less buses and each middle school will have two fewer buses. The number of elementary buses will remain unchanged.

School Year	Number of Buses
2015-2016	59
2016-2017	55
2017-2018	54
2018-2019	50
2019-2020	44

The building schedules provide more time for the buses to transport students in the morning than the afternoon. For example, the time between a high school and middle school route is nearly double in the morning than the afternoon due to the dismissal time. In order to accommodate the reduction of buses for 2019-2020, it is necessary to adjust the dismissal time of middle school students from 3:15 to 3:25 PM. The additional time will be utilized for club participation, band, chorus, advisories and extra assistance from teachers. High School and elementary dismissal times are not impacted by this slight change.

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