



Transportation



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TRANSPORTATION

In addition to standard transportation, the transportation budget includes funding for our out-of-district SPED transportation, which is handled through contracted providers. We currently have 20 regular buses and two mini buses, which are used for in-district SPED transportation, for a total of 22 vehicles. As per our contract with First Student, 11 of these 22 buses will be replaced during the FY20 school year, and then 11 more during the FY21 school year. All new vehicles will be equipped with seat belt ready frames.

Included in the transportation budget is an increase in the cost of fuel. Our current contracted rate is set to expire on 12/31/19 for gas and 6/30/20 for diesel. We have projected the per gallon fuel rates at \$2.50 per gallon for diesel through the end of FY21 and \$2.25 for gasoline. The FY20 out-of-district SPED transportation account is anticipated to be over budget. The primary reason is that we had an unanticipated number of routes (increasing from 6 to 11) during the regular school year for SPED students; we also had an unanticipated increase in the number of students requiring out-of-district transportation during ESY (i.e., summer program for SPED students).

Every student in the Weston Public Schools is offered bus transportation and assigned to a bus. We develop routes to maximize space with the least amount of buses needed while ensuring safe and timely ridership for our students. Our current operation fleet of 22 buses is essential for maintaining our two tier bussing schedule.

School	AM First Bus Stop	AM School Start	PM School End	PM Last Student Drop
WHS	6:50	7:45	2:30	3:10
WMS	6:50	7:45	2:30	3:10
WIS	7:45	8:30	3:15	4:10
HES	7:45	8:30	3:15	4:10

The district, in partnership with First Student, uses specialized transportation software programs to plan its bus routes, which allows for the district to provide the shortest routes possible for students and not expand its fleet of buses. Each route is carefully planned, looking at those students who take the bus, drive to school, or are dropped off to ensure we have the right sized fleet and can meet school start and end times. This ensures the district does not have excess capacity in its fleet, thus saving the district significant resources. Each bus costs the district approximately \$73,545.

As the district explores changing school start/end times, it is important to consider the implications for bus transportation. If changes to school start/end times alter bus ridership, we may require additional buses based on capacity and routes. Due to budget constraints, we have not planned for additional buses in the proposed FY 21 budget. We will have to consider this limitation as we proceed with exploring any changes to school start/end times. At present, the School Start/End Time Task Force understands this limitation and is not considering options that would require an increase in the number of buses or a change

to the two tier bussing and bell schedule. This approach would avoid any new transportation expenses due to new start/end times.

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Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

2019-2020 Actual				2020-2021 Projected			
Operating Budget FTE	Other Sources FTE	Total FTE	Program	Operating Budget FTE	Other Sources FTE	Total FTE	Change
Non Certified Staff							
0.00	0.00	0.00	Transportation Coordinator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	Drivers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00