



# Minidoka County School District #331

*"Empowering Students for Success"*

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May 2018

RE: In-District Open Enrollment and Transportation Changes

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The District has struggled for the past couple of years to find sufficient drivers to address our bus route needs. Last fall the Board approved the hiring of two additional drivers, but not only were we not able to fill those positions we have been short bus drivers all year. If you know of someone who might be interested in driving school bus, please have them contact the Transportation Department at 436-3311.

### **Open Enrollment Transfers**

This challenge of finding sufficient bus drivers has caused us to review our policy and practices in making our current transportation offerings as efficient as possible. To this end we have determined that we will no longer be able to provide shuttle services for in-district open enrollment students. This will only apply to those student who have been leaving class early, sometimes as much as 25 minutes early, in order to catch a bus to one of our transfer schools so they could catch a ride home. Here is the proposed language change from Policy 302.00 Open Enrollment:

“Whenever an in-district pupil enrolls in and attends a school located out of his/her zone of attendance, the parent or guardian shall be responsible for transporting the pupil to and from the requested school or an appropriate bus stop within the District. The District will transport an in-district pupil if such transportation is part of regularly scheduled routes that do not necessitate early release of students.”

We will be sending a letter home announcing these changes to all parents who have students who are currently open enrolled as well as those who have applied for open enrollment for next year. Please watch the website over the summer for more information about which routes will be affected.

### **Student Transportation Changes**

This summer we will also be reviewing Policy 800.00 Student Transportation and will be developing some procedures and guidelines to better inform parents of the services we will provide as a District and those we will not be able to provide. Some examples might be: spacing out bus stops in town to every four blocks so students will have to walk no more than two blocks; not returning for students who have missed the bus; adjusting routes to be more efficient; and not waiting for students who are not ready when the bus arrives.

As we take on this endeavor, we hope that you understand that our purpose is to provide better service to you and your children. Our Transportation Department staff are dedicated employees and in some cases, have become like part of your family. We want to continue that kind of service, but we also must be responsible to the District for wages and fuel.