

Transportation Update – September 2025

The school year is off to a good start overall. As with most districts, we experienced a few issues on the first day; however, all were quickly resolved.

Currently, we are using our maintenance staff to cover two bus routes daily. Additionally, we have a few retired substitute drivers helping with PM routes, as we did last year.

I plan to hold a training class for one of our monitors to begin driver training, with the goal of having them licensed and ready by January. We are also preparing to conduct 8-hour update courses for a couple of high school staff members who already hold valid licenses so they can assist if needed.

We have one open monitor position, which we are currently covering with substitutes or maintenance staff when no subs are available. I recommend continuing with this approach for now. We have contracted with St. Elizabeth for our random drug testing pool to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

We are currently transporting approximately 700 students daily across AM/PM routes, NKU, Gateway, Preschool, Restore, C21, and sports trips.

The KDE district review conducted on August 26, 2025, went well. All records and buses met standards, except for the black buildup on the bus roofs. I've reached out to other districts and truck wash services in hopes of contracting periodic cleanings (3–4 times per year) to help address this issue.

One of our buses experienced a blown turbo hose—not a major expense, but the bus is out of service until it's repaired. With only one spare bus available, losing another would put us in a difficult position. While we could attempt to borrow a bus from a neighboring district, it would be beneficial to purchase a new bus with air conditioning. Currently, only one of our daily route buses lacks AC. We should also consider purchasing a new special needs bus with additional seating and shoulder/lap belts.

I've spoken with a KISTA representative, who provided a payment estimate for a new bus. Our district currently receives \$55,505.02 annually in bus depreciation reimbursement.

All required bus evacuations have been completed at our schools and were conducted smoothly without issues. I've been working 10–12 hours daily (not including sports trips) to effectively manage the responsibilities. I remain committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure our transportation department provides safe and efficient service to our students.

The administration at all Newport buildings, as well as the Athletic Director, have been supportive and helpful in collaborating on problem-solving efforts. Overall, the year is going well, and we have a dedicated team committed to meeting the daily transportation needs of our students.