

**Tomah Area School District
Transportation Office
1550 Townline Road
Tomah, WI 54660
608-374-7377**

**High Quality Student Learning:
Every Child, Every Day!**

Bus driver shortage an issue for Tomah Area School District Families

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As many in our community are aware, school districts across the state and nation are experiencing a significant shortage of school bus drivers during this unprecedented time. The Tomah Area School District is no exception. Currently, all staff trained in driving a school bus, are being called upon daily to cover bus routes. This includes all bus mechanics, the Transportation Supervisor and Director, as well as other maintenance, ground crew and custodial staff. Similarly, the Transportation Department office staff are used regularly as bus aides and van drivers. This was the case for the entire '20-'21 school year.

Unfortunately, over the summer the situation worsened due to a significant number of retirements. The district's Transportation Department has been trying to develop workable solutions for this critical shortage of bus drivers.

We are intentionally sharing this information with you at this time for a number of reasons:

- Routes are likely to be combined or doubled.
- Routes may be delayed.
- Extracurricular and athletic events may be impacted.

How you can help:

- Consider driving: Interviews can be scheduled by calling (608) 374-7377.
- Families who are able should consider self-transportation and/or carpooling to and from school to decrease pressure on transportation services.
- Those within a reasonable distance should consider walking or bicycling to school. According to the CDC's Health and Academic Achievement Report, this makes the students more ready to learn, and is great exercise.
- **Please let us know if your student(s) do not require transportation so we can optimize routes as soon as possible.**

As a district, we are committed to continuing to provide the high-quality, safe transportation services that are a hallmark of the Tomah Area Schools Transportation Department. Our goal is to continue accommodating the academic and extracurricular transportation needs of all our students. The shortage of transportation staff may, however, force us to deliver these services differently than they have been delivered in the past. We will continue to actively recruit additional bus drivers, van drivers, and aides and will keep you informed if and when we may have to make adjustments to how our transportation services are currently delivered. If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Office at 608-374-7377

Sincerely,
Tom Dummermuth
Director of Transportation