



# RSU 16

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[www.rsu16.org](http://www.rsu16.org)

Kenneth J. Healey, Superintendent

Amy Hediger, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Director

Stacie Field, Business Manager

Craig Worth, Director of Operations

August 28, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we complete the first day of school, I would like to address the first day transportation complications we have all had to overcome. As I stated in my call last evening, there have been some changes to our bus routes. I apologize for the lateness of the notification and for the technology issues we experienced this week.

I, again, would like to apologize for these operational shortcomings and lack of communications on this matter. I would also like to thank those who have understood and worked with us cooperatively and patiently to solve their first day transportation concerns.

Additionally, some people have specifically identified their concerns, displeasure and anger over the lack of communication surrounding the changing of the bus routes, and I completely accept this accurate criticism. The changes were thought to be minor adjustments at first, but, clearly, they were major changes for many. When something doesn't happen correctly in RSU 16 it is my responsibility, we could have done better and should have done better.


It is important to know that this new system has been a summer-long project. Regretfully, we lost all of our data last Monday. Mr. Barlow and other Central Office staff worked feverishly to re-enter the data, and we were only able to accomplish this yesterday. What we should have done was alert you last week about the data loss in order to prepare you for the last-minute confusion. Many have expressed safety concerns about the new locations. The transportation department will be re-assessing each route after the first week to make necessary adjustments to the routes, as needed.

Another issue to highlight is responsibility, the employees of RSU 16 are responsible for the students when they are in our care (i.e. on the bus, in the school, at a school activity). Our employees are not responsible for the students in and around the student's neighborhood, including movement to and from the designated bus stops. School bus transportation is from point A to point B and back, parents should ensure that a trusted adult delivers their student to the bus stop and have a trusted adult meet the student when they get off the bus.

We are guided by the School District Policy EEAC-R when determining bus stops. Many families in the three communities have grown accustomed to front door drop-off service, and in today's world of bus driver shortages we are no longer capable of providing this individual service. To be more efficient with our resources, we have attempted to consolidate as many stops as possible while maximizing student numbers on each route. Implementing a new routing system and bus routes is never easy, but I am confident that after the issues are addressed this year's approach will give the district significant efficiencies and better route management.

Although this was a bumpy start, as we refine our routes it will get better. Once again, I would like to apologize for the disruption, inconvenience and anxiety that today's bus transportation issues and lack of communication may have caused. I further ask for your patience and cooperation over the next few days and weeks as we attempt to adjust the bus routes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth J. Healey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'K' and 'H'.

Kenneth J. Healey