



Holly Area Schools

Excellence in Action!

October 19, 2023

Dear Families of Holly Area Schools,

This is an update for parents/guardians of students riding school buses to and from school.

The nationwide shortage of qualified school bus drivers as continued into the 2023 – 2024 school year. Many districts throughout Michigan have also been impacted by this unfortunate reality.

It has been our goal to avoid any interruptions to transportation routes. Holly Area Schools began the school year with a full roster of drivers. Unfortunately, we are now facing some unanticipated employee vacancies.

While our district transportation department leaders and bus drivers have continued to work tirelessly to keep all of our routes running, the shortage of drivers has now impacted Holly Area Schools. One of the biggest challenges we continue to face is finding qualified drivers to fill the positions. The other challenge facing our district is that we drive more miles than the majority of districts. In fact, our buses travel over 2,000 miles each day, making us the third-largest district in size in Southeast Michigan. As a result, our district has more driver positions than most surrounding schools.

We are communicating to you in advance so our families have time to plan for alternative transportation to and from school for their children.

Beginning Monday, October 30th through Friday, December 22nd, we will temporarily cancel two bus routes. Each week, two different routes will be cancelled as part of a weekly rotation to reduce the inconvenience to one week for our families.

We are currently utilizing licensed staff and department leaders to cover routes, but this is not sustainable in the coming weeks.

The district is also continuing its campaign to hire new bus drivers offering signing bonuses up to \$5,000. We are working on additional strategies to recruit new drivers.

Attached to this letter is the schedule of the cancelled bus routes through the week of December 22nd. A follow-up Skylert email will be sent the week prior to each cancelled route as a reminder.

We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we do our best to fully staff our transportation department and support your child's route to school.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent

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