

FY 2010 QUESTION NUMBER: 14

QUESTION:

What is the policy and cost related to transportation of out-of-area students to Middle School Magnet Consortium schools?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: N/A

ANSWER:

Due to budget constraints, transportation for MSMC students who reside in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, and Rockville high school clusters is being phased out and will cease to exist at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Currently, three buses are providing limited service from these three eligible clusters. The phase out is as follows:

- During the 2008-2009 school year, Grade 7 and 8 students living in these clusters are eligible for transportation. Transportation for Grade 6 students, including siblings of Grade 7 and 8 students, will no longer officially be provided. Grade 6 students will have an opportunity to ride existing bus routes on a space-available basis. If space is not available on those buses, parents/guardians will be responsible for transportation.
- During the 2009-2010 school year, Grade 8 students living in these clusters will be eligible for transportation. Transportation for Grade 6 and 7 students, including siblings of Grade 8 students, will no longer officially be provided. Grade 6 and 7 students will have an opportunity to ride existing bus routes on a space-available basis. If space is not available on those buses, parents/guardians will be responsible for transportation.
- Beyond the 2009-2010 school year, bus service will no longer be available. Parents/guardians will be responsible for transportation.

Parents of accepted students who reside in all other areas of Montgomery County must provide their own transportation to MSMC schools.

Providing transportation for a county-wide middle school magnet program would require approximately 22 bus routes. The estimated cost per bus route would be \$17,163 and would cover salaries, substitutes, benefits, fuel, parts and repairs. For 22 bus routes this would total \$377,586. Additional buses would need to be purchased at a cost of \$17,833 per bus. The annual lease amount for 22 buses this would total \$392,326. The total annual cost of providing transportation is \$769,912.