

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

February 5, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Districtwide Boundary Analysis Discussion: Bus Routes and Ridership  
(01-09-20-02-B, -C)

During the Districtwide Boundary Analysis discussion, Board members requested the following:

**Question B**

Mr. Tinbrite requested data regarding the average length of a bus ride for students.

**Response**

The following table presents the average and maximum school bus ride times for the elementary, middle, and high school levels. There is a wide range of bus ride times across Montgomery County Public Schools, which reflect variations in the geography of the county. It is important to note that the maximum bus ride times are outliers and apply to a small number of actual bus rides. Bus ride distances in the consortia also affect ride times; consortia high schools envelop greater geographic areas than a high school with a single catchment area.

Level	Average ride time	Max ride time (school)
Elementary	14.55 mins	60 mins (Sherwood ES)
Middle	18.02 mins	62 mins (Hoover MS)
High	21.53 mins	80 mins (Springbrook HS)

Bus ride times also vary based on whether a student attends the school of assignment, a magnet program, an immersion program or a choice program. For the 2019–2020 school year, 103,960 students are transported daily on 1,203 routes:

- 630 regular education routes with 92,860 students;
- 512 special education routes with 5,900 students; and
- 61 magnet program routes with 5,200 students.

**Question C**

Mrs. O'Neill requested that staff define who constitutes the 105,000 school bus riders in the county for the Board. Also, provide this information to the community-at-large so that they know who they are (i.e., students are not being bused *from* their neighborhood schools but *to* their schools due to a myriad of reasons—special programs, unsafe walking conditions, etc.).

Information about bus routes and ridership is included in our discussions about the boundary analysis as well as various transportation conversations. The material and data serve to increase community understanding about the dynamics of school transportation.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, chief operating officer, at 240-740-3050.

JRS:AMZ:em

Copy to:

- Dr. McKnight
- Dr. Navarro
- Dr. Statham
- Dr. Zuckerman
- Mr. Civin
- Dr. Johnson
- Mr. Marella
- Mr. Turner
- Mr. Adams
- Mr. Watkins
- Ms. Webb