



February 9, 2021

Dear Lakewood Parent or Guardian,

During the 2018-19 school year, the Lakewood Public Schools operated eighteen (18) daily elementary and secondary bus routes. In the two short years since, because of a shortage of school bus drivers, we have operated thirteen (13) this year. We have combined and lengthened routes to the maximum to which this is possible so as to not interrupt transportation services for our students and families.

Today, I am writing to inform you that unfortunately, beginning Tuesday, February 16th, the District will begin implementing the elimination of transportation services on a rotational basis. This interruption of service results from the impending retirement and medical leave of two of our current bus drivers. In the past, we have worked with other districts to “lend” each other drivers in these situations, but this shortage of bus drivers is impacting everyone.

I genuinely recognize this is a significant inconvenience for our families and believe it is best that the burden does not fall disproportionately on one segment of our community. Therefore, we will be implementing a rotational schedule so that families are impacted no more than once per week and for scheduling purposes, on the same day of the week. That schedule is attached.

As I shared earlier, we have combined and lengthened routes to the extent possible in order to maintain daily transportation services this long. Therefore, we will not allow students to ride buses on which they are not rostered to ride. For example, if your student is assigned on the Dog bus, and the Dog route is not scheduled to run that day, your student will not be allowed to ride the Butterfly bus that day.

If your student is in a preschool program (GSRP, ECSE, or KinderStart) or grades K-4 and 1) someone other than you will be picking them up from school or 2) your student will be walking home, to a relative’s, or friend’s house for pick up later on the designated day that transportation services will not be provided, please call your school to let them know how your student will be getting home.

We will continue our efforts to advertise, recruit, and get the word out that the Lakewood Public Schools is hiring bus drivers (and substitute teachers, substitute paraprofessionals), but what we have found to be the most effective recruiting strategy is the referral someone like you can make. Maybe you have a relative, friend, or neighbor that has always enjoyed being around kids. Being that first friendly face kids see in the morning is a great way to contribute to making their day better, contributing to the community, and making some money while doing it. If you, or someone you know is interested, please call us at 616-374-8043.

It is our commitment to return to regular transportation service once we have the staff to do so.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Skalka



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ADJUSTED BUS ROUTES 2/16 -4/1

2/15 – NO SCHOOL

2/16-No Penguin

2/17-No Alligator

2/18-No Swan

2/19-No Fish

2/22-No Cat

2/23-No Squirrel

2/24-No Dog

2/25-No Butterfly

2/26-No Panther

3/1-No Reindeer &
Cat

3/2-No Squirrel &
Penguin

3/3-No Dog &
Alligator

3/4-No Swan &
Butterfly

3/5-No Panther &
Fish

3/8-No Reindeer &
Cat

3/9-No Squirrel &
Penguin

3/10-No Dog &
Alligator

3/11-No Swan &
Butterfly

3/12-No Panther &
Fish

3/15 – NO SCHOOL

3/16-No Squirrel &
Penguin

3/17-No Dog &
Alligator

3/18-No Swan &
Butterfly

3/19-No Panther &
Fish

3/22-No Reindeer &
Cat

3/23-No Squirrel &
Penguin

3/24-No Dog &
Alligator

3/25-No Swan &
Butterfly

3/26-No Panther &
Fish

3/29-No Reindeer &
Cat

3/30--No Squirrel &
Penguin

3/31-No Dog &
Alligator

4/1-No Swan &
Butterfly

4/2 – NO SCHOOL