



# NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

**Final Report**

**MSAR #14844**

**House Bill 486/Chapter 777 of 2023**

December 2023



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## Executive Summary

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During the 2023 legislative session, House Bill 486, Task Force to Study Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation, was passed and established a task force to study nonpublic student bus transportation (not inclusive of transportation of students in special education placements). The task force was charged with examining all current forms of transportation that students take to get to and from school, collect data and information from each local board of education, consider other methods of travel for nonpublic students, and to provide recommendations on how to reduce the number of students in private vehicles. By providing recommendation(s) the task force's goal is to reduce traffic congestion and reduce the environmental impact of personal vehicles utilized for school transportation.

Finally, the task force was to provide (a) recommendation(s) to the General Assembly by December 15, 2023, that identified the best alternatives to meet the goal of reducing the use of student and parent personal vehicles for transport to and from school.

# Task Force to Study Nonpublic School Transportation

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The task force was charged to meet four times prior to submission of the final report. The final report will be provided, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee prior to December 15, 2023.

The task force, chaired by Gabriel Rose, State Director of Pupil Transportation/Emergency Management at MSDE, met virtually throughout its work. All meetings began with a review of the Open Meetings Act requirements and the agenda for each meeting. Minutes from prior meetings were provided and the task force was provided with an opportunity to review and adopt the minutes.

House Bill (HB) 486 mandated that the composition of the task force contain a specific group of individuals which include individuals from the following categories:

- The Director of the Office of Pupil Transportation and Emergency Management within the State Department of Education, or the Director's designee;
- Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- The Director of the Office of Grants Administration and Compliance within the State Department of Education, or the Director's designee;
- The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;
- One representative from the Baltimore City Public School System;
- One representative from the Baltimore County Public School System;
- One representative from the Montgomery County Public School System;
- One representative of school bus drivers, designated by the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland School Bus Contractors Association, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1777, and any other organizations representing bus drivers;
- A representative from associations representing nonpublic schools appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- A representative from associations representing nonpublic schools appointed by the President of the Senate;
- One school administrator of a religious nonpublic school designated by the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Association of Independent Schools; and
- One school administrator of a nonsectarian nonpublic school designated by the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Association of Independent Schools.

## MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE

### Chair

Gabriel Rose, Director, Office of Pupil Transportation/Emergency Management

### Member of the Senate

Senator Shelly Hettleman

### Member of the Senate

Senator Paul D Corderman

### Member of the House of Delegates

Delegate Dalya Attar

### Member of the House of Delegates

Delegate Courtney Watson

### The Director of the Office of Grants Administration and Compliance

Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy

### The Secretary of Transportation

Darryl Clark, MTA's Director of Service Development

### Representative from the Baltimore City Public School System

Sharicca Bolden

### Representative from the Baltimore County Public School System

Kenny West

### Representative from the Montgomery County Public School System

Lynne Harris

### Representative of School Bus Drivers

Steve Nelson, President, Maryland School Bus Contractors Association

### Representative from Associations Representing Nonpublic Schools Appointed by the Speaker of the House

Arielle Frankston-Morris, Executive Director, Teach MD

### Representative from Associations Representing Nonpublic Schools Appointed by the President of the Senate

Rabbi Ariel Sadwin, President of Maryland CAPE,

### One School Administrator of a Religious Nonpublic School

Jeremy Joseph, Principal, Archbishop Curley High School

### One School Administrator of a Nonsectarian Nonpublic School

Ann Wagner, Ed.D, Head of School, The Banner School

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF**

**Krishnanda Tallur**, Deputy State Superintendent of Operations

**Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D.**, Executive Director of Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

**Laurel Cratsley**, Education Policy Program Analyst for Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

## SUMMARY OF TASK FORCE MEETINGS

To address the specific mandates of House Bill 486, Task Force to Study Nonpublic School Transportation, the task force held a series of four meetings from August 2023 through October 2023. Each meeting focused on guiding questions and included information gathered regarding private school transportation, public school transportation, and what other states have as laws or regulations pertaining to the transportation of private school students. Presentations from experts in the field of student transportation were also provided. The virtual format enabled experts in the field of student transportation to present and answer questions from task force members. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff provided an overview of Maryland's existing policies and practices, as well as an examination of pertinent data. Each meeting included an opportunity for task force members to provide input and discuss topics that had been previously reviewed.

### August 24, 2023

Guiding Question(s): What option(s) are available for nonpublic schools to provide transportation for students to and from school?

MSDE staff shared data regarding the status of Public-School Transportation in Maryland. Data was provided from the 2022 End-of-Year report from the Office of Pupil Transportation. Data on the current understanding of nonpublic school transportation was also provided and local education agencies (LEAs) that provide some form of travel for nonpublic schools was presented including Howard, Calvert, and St. Mary's County Public Schools. A high-level understanding of State funding for pupil transportation was presented to the group members. Finally, a review of programs that other states are using was presented which showed what states have laws that include the transportation of private school students by public school programs.

### September 14, 2023

Guiding Question(s): How will the task force decide on recommendations? What are the options to consider as recommendations for nonpublic school transportation?

MSDE Staff provided a data breakdown of the current 420 responses from the initial survey sent out to all nonpublic schools. This survey included questions about the school's current transportation program (if applicable), the number of students that attend the school, and the percentage of students that benefit from the school's transportation program. The data collected will be broken down further and organized to include information pertaining to the locations of all these schools by LEA. Information of all Public-School responses was provided to task force members. Data on LEAs that responded that they do have a nonpublic school transportation program was provided to task force members which included signed agreements and their transportation policies.

Presentations were made by St. Mary's County Public Schools Director of Pupil Transportation, Past Transportation Director for Montgomery County Public Schools, and Frederick County Public Schools Director of Pupil Transportation about nonpublic school transportation in their LEAs.

### September 28, 2023

Guiding Question(s): What does the data from the nonpublic school survey results tell the task force? What additional data does the task force need? What recommendation(s) would be the most uncomplicated and straightforward to implement with the most impact to student ridership?

MSDE staff provided a data breakdown of the newly revised 376 responses (down from 420 following a review of each school's responses) from nonpublic schools. Two hundred ninety nine (299) reported that there is no transportation for their school, 74 reported that there is transportation for their school, and of those 74, three reported that their transportation program was out of service. A map showing the number of private schools by



county was provided showing how the number of private schools is highest near Washington, D.C. and the Baltimore Metropolitan Area.

The task force took part in an activity that allowed ideas to be posted, comments to be listed, and ideas to be assessed by using an online survey tool called "Mentimeter". Members took part and discussed the results of their postings following questions or prompts from the task force chair. Following the exercise, the members were provided a grading matrix on the list of recommendations that the group have brought up for consideration. The group was provided with the format for consideration of recommendations.

### **October 17, 2023**

The task force reviewed the data collected from prior meetings and discussed any areas where data was either absent or could have been gathered to provide a better understanding of private school transportation needs across the State. MSDE staff advised that communication with nonpublic schools tends to be more difficult as there are only a small, dedicated staff that have contact with these schools and, with the condensed timeline for the task force, staff were limited in their ability to gather more detailed information.

Discussions on task force recommendations were started, and members were involved in presenting, discussing, and voting on each recommendation. After the task force decided on two recommendations, the members were thanked for their participation and the meeting was closed.

# Overview of Maryland Public-School Transportation

Maryland public schools had over 889,900 Maryland school children enrolled in public schools during the 2022-2023 school year. Of the 889,900 Maryland school children, 636,960 traveled to and from school on school buses. This number equated to around 72% of all students that attend Maryland public schools.

- Maryland has over 1,400 public schools in 24 local education agencies serving the State's 23 counties, plus Baltimore City. In the school year 2022-23, over 889,900 students enrolled in Maryland public schools from Pre-K to high school.
- For the 2022 school year, there were around 834 private schools serving 139,263 students in Maryland.
- 14% of all K-12 students in Maryland are educated in private schools (compared to the national average of 10%).
- 889,900 students enrolled in Maryland public schools.
- 636,960 students are eligible and/or take public school transportation.
- 72% of public-school students are eligible and/or take public school transportation.

## State Funding for Public School Pupil Transportation

According to Maryland Educational Article §5-218:

*"The State shall distribute grants as provided under this section to the county boards to provide transportation services for public school students and disabled children for whom transportation is to be provided under § 8-410 of this article. Appropriations for student transportation shall be budgeted in a separate budget category as provided in § 5-101 of this title. If the amount that is appropriated to a county under this section in a fiscal year is more than the actual cost of providing student transportation services in that county, a county board may apply any excess funds to costs of pupil transportation in subsequent years. None of these funds may be paid to or claimed by any subdivision, nor may any of these funds be reverted to any subdivision. A county board may not transfer State revenues from the student transportation category to any other category as a result of this section.*

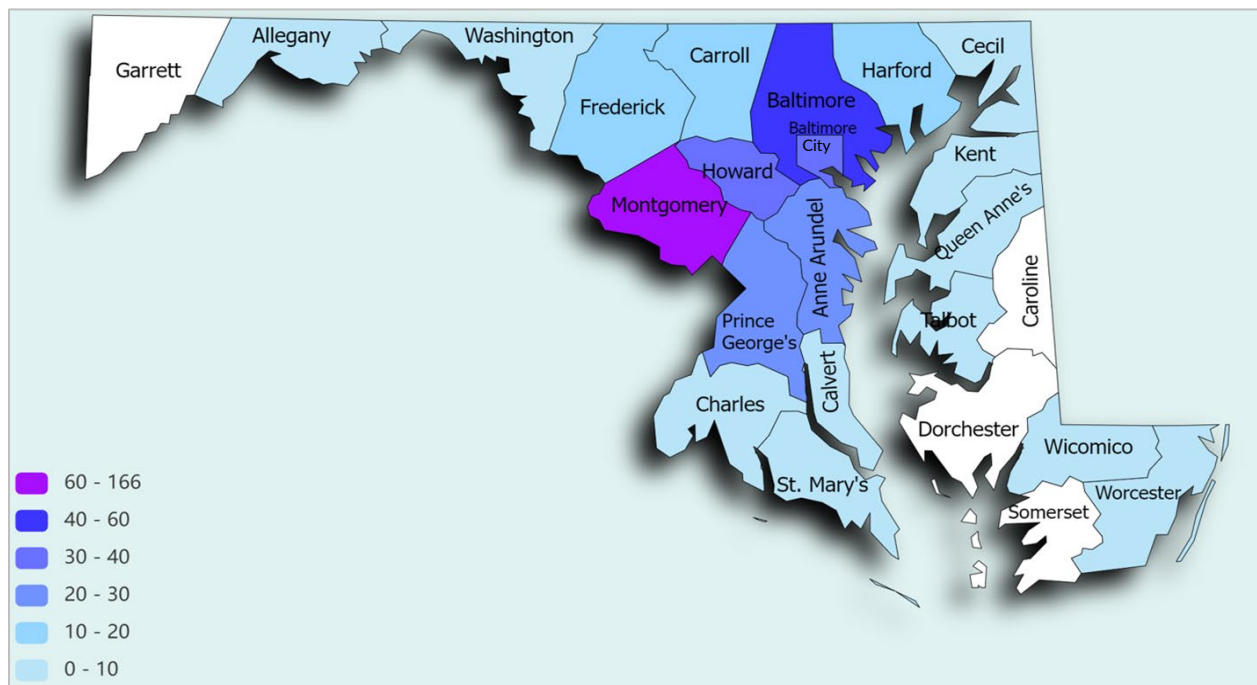
*For each fiscal year, in addition to the base grant for student transportation provided under subsection (c) of this section, a disabled student transportation grant shall be distributed to each county board. The amount of the grant to each board shall be equal to the product of the number of disabled students requiring special transportation services who are transported by the county board in the previous fiscal year and \$1,000 in fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter."*

# Overview of Maryland Private-School Transportation

There are 373 private pay schools in Maryland with the highest number of schools located in Montgomery County (166). The percentage of private school students receiving school bus transportation in Maryland is dramatically low.

The chart below illustrates the number of private schools in each County and in Baltimore City.

City



A nonpublic school may not operate in Maryland until a Certificate of Approval has been issued by the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) or the school has been registered as a church-exempt school. MSDE is responsible for the regulatory oversight of nonpublic schools located throughout Maryland. These schools fall into three distinct categories; nonpublic schools approved under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.09.09 (private pay), nonpublic schools approved under COMAR 13A.09.10 (publicly funded), and registered church-exempt schools. The first two types of schools are considered “approved” because they hold a Certificate of Approval issued by the Maryland State Board of Education. Registered church-exempt schools are exempt from the education regulations set forth by the Maryland State Board of Education because they are governed and operated by a bona fide church organization (Education Article §2-206). Each type of program is a legally sufficient way to operate in Maryland.

For most publicly funded private schools in Maryland, transportation is provided by LEAs as students attending these schools are placed there by public schools to meet the needs of the children. For schools that are private pay or church-exempt, there typically is not any transportation provided to and from school unless either the parent provides transport or pays for transportation to be provided by the school. Even so, many private schools either do not have the ability to build a transportation program, do not have enough interest from families, or

recognize that a transportation program would add such an additional cost to families that it would not be sustainable.

As most of the students that are attending private schools are riding in personal vehicles with family members, this high number of students being driven to and from school daily dramatically increases the amount of traffic and thus congestion on the state’s highways and roads. The additional pollution caused by these personal vehicles could be greatly reduced if students were consolidated into a multi passenger vehicle, such as a school bus.

**State Funding for Private School Pupil Transportation**

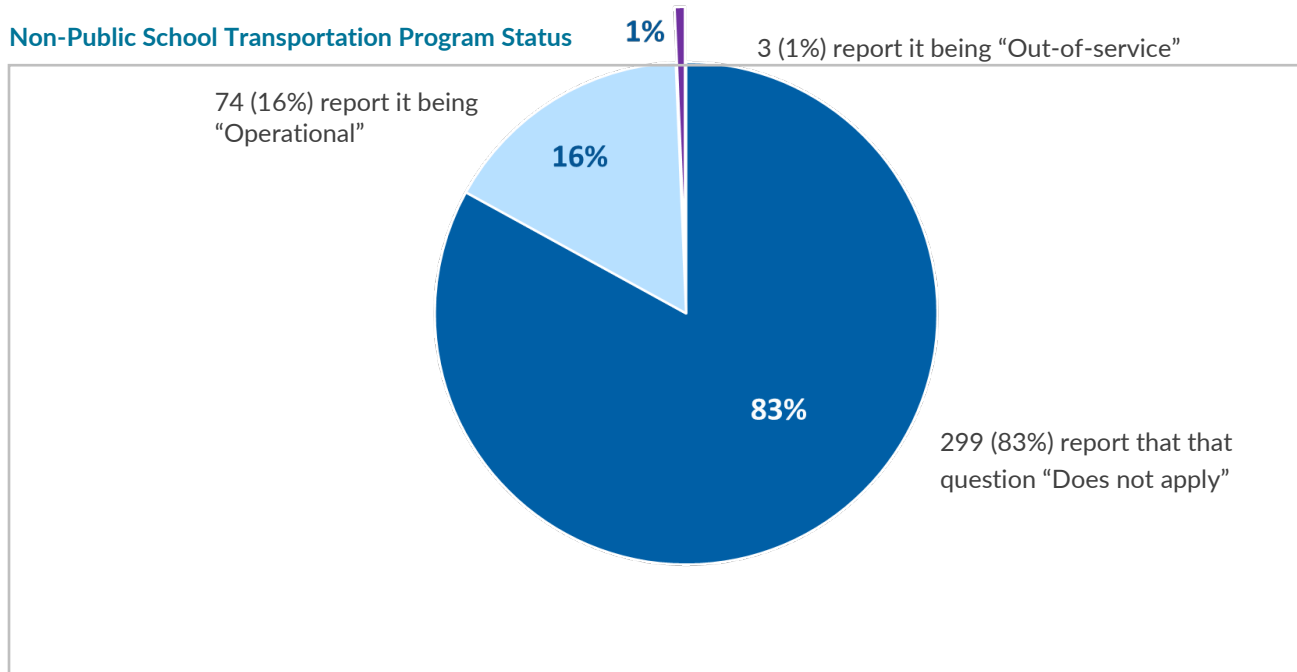
The State does not provide any funding for the transportation of private school students outside of grants provided to LEAs for the transportation of students with a disability under Md. Code, Educ. § 5-218. Parents must either provide transportation for the student or, if the school provides, pay an additional amount to receive bus transportation.

**Survey Results for Non-Public School Transportation Programs**

The MSDE Office of Performance Reporting and Accountability sent out surveys via email and letter that included questions about the school’s current transportation program (if applicable), the number of students that attend the school, and the percentage of students that benefit from the school’s transportation program. MSDE Received 376 responses from those nonpublic schools that received the survey. A total of 91,509 nonpublic students were identified in this survey.

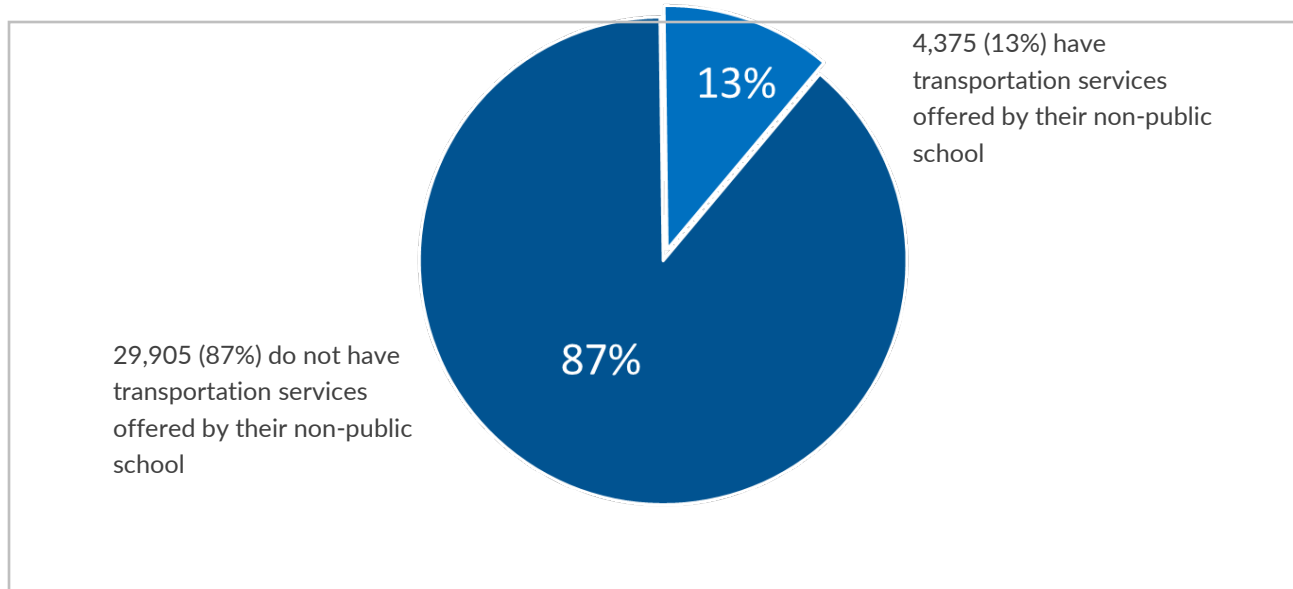
Of the 376 responses to the question “What is the status of the student busing program(s) at your school” were:

- 299 report that the question “Does not apply” as their school does not, and has not, had a transportation program at their school
- 74 report it being “Operational”
- 3 report it being “Out-of-service”



### Non-Public School Transportation Operational Programs

Of the 74 schools that reported “Operational” 4,375 non-public school students (of the State’s total 34,280) that attended non-public schools were offered transportation. Thirteen percent (13 %) of the private student population across Maryland ride transportation to and from school that is provided by the school or a contracted service.



# Agreements in Place Between Public and Private Schools for Student Transportation

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## Howard County

### Policy 5200 – Student Transportation

Students who attend parochial schools will receive transportation services as provided in the Howard County Code and Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) policies and procedures. This service will be provided only on a space-available basis along existing school bus routes designed to serve public schools. Parochial schools that receive state aid will not receive transportation services.

## Calvert County

Transportation offered by the Calvert County Board under this section shall be offered to a student attending a nonpublic school:

- If there is sufficient capacity on the school bus.
- If the student resides on, along, or near a public highway in the county on which a public-school bus or conveyance operates.
- If the student resides in the public-school transportation district served by the public-school bus.
- Only on the routes, school days, and hours of transportation that coincide with the routes, school days, and hours of transportation for students attending public schools in the county; and
- In the case of a student who attends a nonpublic school that is not on the public-school bus route, only to the public school on the route which is nearest to the nonpublic school.

The Calvert County Board is not responsible for the safety of any nonpublic school student who is transported on a public-school bus under this subsection after the student is discharged from the public-school bus, and the board may not be held liable in any civil action arising from an act or omission that occurs after the student is discharged from the public-school bus.

## St. Mary's County

In 1941, the County, through the St. Mary's County Code, enacted Public Law, Chapter 116-1 entitled "Bus Transportation". This law was established and specifically states that children who attend schools in St. Mary's County that do not receive state aid (non-public schools) and who live on or along or near to a public road in St. Mary's County on which public school bus service is being provided, shall be entitled to non-public school bus transportation. In short, school transport vehicles shall operate only on public roadways, as listed for maintenance on the latest official State, County, or Town highway map(s). Exceptions for service onto private roads will be made based on special circumstances and will be only on roads that are properly maintained. All exceptions must be approved by the Board of Education's Superintendent of Schools or his / her designee.

If there is a student whose family resides in St. Mary's County, there is no charge for using the non-public school transportation system. However, there is a \$900 per student per year charge for all out-of-County residents based on the fee schedule determined for the current school year. For shorter durations of time, the fee may be prorated (i.e., for half a school year, the fee may be reduced by 50%). For extenuating circumstances and hardships, the fee may be waived in whole or in part, based upon review of a written request.

St. Mary's County pays \$2.2 million for bus contract services for the private schools, six of which are Catholic. They transport around 1,400 students to private schools.

# Some States that Transport Nonpublic Students to and from School

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## Alaska

Alaska law governing pupil transportation is in Alaska Statute (AS) 14.09. Those statutes include a provision in AS 14.09.020 regarding transport of nonpublic school students, with program costs to be paid by legislative appropriation, but no appropriations have been received for the program for the last 30 years.

## Delaware

The General Assembly has not provided non-public funding since FY17. The state did provide transportation funds to the nonpublic, nonprofit school or designated agent for eligible families. The family then directed the nonpublic, nonprofit school or designated agent how the funds are to be dispersed e.g., some or all the funds to the parent, Guardian, or Relative Caregiver for tuition, for school provided transportation costs, for an allowance, etc.

## Illinois

School districts that provide school bus transportation for public school students shall provide transportation, without cost, for children who attend any school other than a public school if they reside at least one and one-half miles from the school attended. The children must reside along the route constituting the regular school bus route and extend from some point on the regular route nearest or most easily accessible to their homes to and from the school attended or to or from a point on a regular route that is nearest or most easily accessible to the school attended by such children.

## Indiana

If a student who attends: a nonpublic school located in a school corporation; or a charter school located in a rural school corporation; resides on or along the highway constituting the regular route of a public-school bus, the governing body of the school corporation shall provide transportation for the nonpublic or charter school student on the school bus.

Transportation provided under Indiana Code Title 20. Education § 20-27-11-1 must be from the home of the nonpublic or charter school student or from a point on the regular route nearest or most easily accessible to the home of the nonpublic or charter school student to and from the nonpublic or charter school or to and from the point on the regular route that is nearest or most easily accessible to the nonpublic or charter school from which the student can walk to and from the nonpublic or charter school.

## Iowa

Resident pupils attending a nonpublic school located either within or without the school district of the pupil's residence shall be entitled to transportation on the same basis as provided for resident public school pupils under Iowa Code 285.1 (14).

There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the department of education funds sufficient to pay the approved claims of public-school districts for transportation services to nonpublic school pupils.

## Kansas

Whenever any school district shall provide or furnish transportation under authority of this act for pupils attending the public schools, pupils residing in such school district attending private or parochial schools of elementary or high school grades which are accredited by the state board of education, who shall reside on or

along the highway or street constituting the regular route of a school bus, or who shall gather at some place on the regular route nearest or most easily accessible to their homes or such schools, where such transportation is provided for pupils attending the public schools, shall be entitled to the privilege of such school bus transportation upon such regular route as arranged for the benefit of pupils attending public schools. For the purposes under Article 64. – Student Transportation, 72-6491. Transportation of nonpublic school pupils, regular routes shall not include any route arranged by the school district for the transportation of exceptional children to special education services.

### Michigan

Except as otherwise provided in the revised school code Act 451 of 1976, 380.1321-Transportation for pupils, if a board of a school district provides transportation for its resident pupils, other than students with a disability transported under article 3 or other pupils who cannot safely walk to school, the school board shall provide transportation to and from school for each resident public or nonpublic school pupil if both of the following requirements are met:

The school district provides transportation for the elementary school level, middle or junior high school level, or high school level, as defined by the local school board, in which the pupil is enrolled.

The pupil attends either the public or the nearest state approved nonpublic school in the school district to which the pupil is eligible to be admitted.

### Nebraska

A school board of any public school district that provides transportation for children attending that public school shall also provide transportation without cost for children residing in the district that attend non-profit, non-public schools lying within that same district. Transportation provided for the non-profit, non-public school only extends from some point on the regular public-school route nearest or most easily accessible to their home to and from a point on the public-school route.

### New Jersey

In New Jersey, State law requires that school districts transport public school students if they live “remote” from their assigned school of attendance, which is defined as more than two miles between home and school for K-8 students and more than 2.5 miles for high school students. If a district is required to transport public school students, then it is also required to provide transportation services to nonpublic school students who reside in the district and live remote, but within 20 miles, of the nonpublic school of attendance.

A school district may not spend more than a certain amount per pupil to provide non-public transportation. For the current school year, that amount is \$1,022 per pupil. If a district is unable to provide a seat on a bus for non-public school students within that limit, then the district pays the parent that maximum dollar amount.

### Wisconsin

Except as provided in sub. (1) or otherwise provided in Section 121.54 General Transportation, the school board of each district operating high school grades shall provide transportation to and from the school a pupil attends for each pupil residing in the school district who attends any elementary grade, including kindergarten, or high school grade at a private school located 2 miles or more from the pupil's residence, if such private school is a school within whose attendance area the pupil resides and is situated within the school district or not more than 5 miles beyond the boundaries of the school district measured along the usually traveled route.



# Options Considered by the Task Force for Recommendations

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## **Increase awareness of MTA public Transportation Option.**

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) transportation is provided throughout the Baltimore City Metropolitan area. Transportation provided that already exists and is near private schools could be publicized and offered as an option for parents for student transportation either on buses or light rail.

## **Tax Credit for parents that obtain transportation other than personal vehicles.**

A tax credit would encourage the parents of private school students to enroll their child for private school transportation and thus encourage the growth of transportation programs in private schools across the State. The amount of the tax credit would cover some but perhaps not all the cost of private school transportation.

## **Using Public School Buses during off-peak hours.**

Using public school buses during off-peak hours would require scheduling of bell times for private schools outside of their normal school hours. Changes to bell times may be dramatic with private schools not opening until after 9am and not being able to end until after 4pm. Other areas may see a more dramatic change in times.

## **Transport nonpublic school students in buses along with public school students.**

The transportation of private school students on public school buses is already provided in some LEAs for certain private schools. Adding more students to public school buses would decrease the available capacity for public school students, thus requiring the LEA to purchase more buses to meet the increased demand.

## **Transport nonpublic school students on buses along with public school students if room allows.**

The transportation of private school students on public school buses is already provided in some LEAs for certain private schools if room allows. This recommendation will allow the LEA to determine if the buses have additional capacity to transport private school students. If the LEA can determine that there is no available capacity, they would not be required to provide transportation to private school students.

## **Transport nonpublic school students in separate public-school buses.**

This recommendation would require that LEAs purchase additional school buses and employ additional staff simply to provide transportation to private school students. The cost of these additional buses and staff would fall to the LEA and be a considerable additional cost above what many LEAS are already spending on their own students for transportation.

## **Transport nonpublic school students in nonpublic purchased or contracted school buses.**

This recommendation is what some private schools are already providing and is considered the safest and most environmentally friendly option. Many private schools would like to provide this form of transportation, but the high cost of start-up and continued operation is a barrier for many small private schools.

## **Require LEAs to develop their own teams to decide the best way to transport Nonpublic school students.**

By requiring LEAs to develop their own teams to review and report out on options that can be used to assist in providing transportation to private school students in each county, this option would allow LEAs and counties to work at the local level on the issue and investigate possible solutions. This option would only require the

reporting of the possible solution but would not require that transportation be provided following the conclusion of the local team's findings.

**Have the state provide funding for nonpublic schools to buy or contract transportation options.**

Grants are provided to public schools to assist in the operation of LEAs pupil transportation programs. This option would expand grant opportunities to private schools to encourage the creation and sustainability of private school transportation. Grants would be provided to private schools to be used for vehicles, drivers, and other transportation needs.

**Have the local county fund transportation for nonpublic school transportation.**

This option would require that local Maryland counties be responsible for creating and operating a private school transportation program that is run independently of the public school system. The funding of this program would be collected through local county funds and not State funds.

**Carpool stipends where parents and schools certify their participation.**

To encourage the use of one vehicle to transport multiple students, a carpool stipend would be created. This would allow those that provide transportation to multiple students that attend an eligible private school to receive a stipend to cover some of the travel expenses and to encourage the use of less personal vehicles to transport more students.

# Final Task Force Recommendations

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## RECOMMENDATION 1: THE STATE SHOULD PROVIDE AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR FAMILIES THAT PAY FOR STUDENTS TO BE TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM THEIR SCHOOL.

To increase the number of students that ride in vehicles other than personal vehicles and to reduce the number of vehicles on the road the State should:

- Have the Comptroller's Office provide an income tax credit of up to \$1,500 per student when transportation is paid for and provided for a school year.
- An agency responsible for certifying education-related transportation will gather information and then send the Comptroller's Office a list of qualifying taxpayers who will receive a corresponding credit.
- Any tax credit will be provided to parents that have children attending one or more private or parochial schools located in Maryland.
- Students that would be eligible to be considered for the tax credit must attend a school that participates in the Nonpublic Schools Textbook and Technology Grants Program.
- These schools must:
  - Hold a certificate of approval from or be registered with the State Board of Education;
  - Not charge more tuition to a participating student than \$19,821; and
  - Have incorporated language into its student handbook as required by Annotated Code of Maryland Code, Education Article §26-704(c).
- Private schools that serve students in special education placements would not be considered eligible as part of the income tax credit.

## RECOMMENDATION 2: THE STATE SHOULD CREATE A PROGRAM TO DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO NON-PUBLIC, PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO ASSIST WITH THE CREATION OF A STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.

To increase the number of non-public/private schools that offer a transportation program for parents to utilize, the State should:

- Create a State Grant for funding the creation of private or parochial school transportation programs across the state.
- Funds would be distributed by an appropriate State Agency and provided directly to the private or parochial school.
- Grant funds would be used for, but not limited to school buses, transportation staff, routing software, or contracts with 3<sup>rd</sup> party transportation vendors.
- Grant awards could be based on prior years data for enrollment and related to the size and need of the school.
- Private and parochial schools would need to apply for these grants and provide assurance that the funds would be used for the creation or funding of a pupil transportation program that would service their student population.
- Audits should be conducted on a rotating basis to ensure appropriate use of these grant funds as it relates to pupil transportation.

# Appendices

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## **Appendix A**

Glossary of Acronyms

## **Appendix B**

Meeting One Agenda and Presentation (August 24, 2023)

## **Appendix C**

Meeting Two Agenda and Presentation (September 14, 2023)

## **Appendix D**

Meeting Three Agenda and Presentation (August 28, 2023)

## **Appendix E**

Meeting Four Agenda and Presentation (October 17, 2023)

# Appendix A

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## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

**IEP:** Individual Education Program

**LEA:** Local Education Agency

**MSDE:** Maryland State Department of Education

**OPT:** Office of Pupil Transportation

# Appendix B

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## MEETING ONE AGENDA AND PRESENTATIONS (AUGUST 24, 2023)

Agenda:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/09142023/NonpublicSchoolTransportationTaskForceMeeting2Agenda09142023.pdf>

Presentation:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/08242023/TaskForceMeetingPresentation08242023.pdf>



## Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force

Thursday, August 24, 2023 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Streaming link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H83avepdrvU17eUmDURuPG4eR35mn5KY/view>

### Welcome & Introductions

- Krishna Tallur, Deputy State Superintendent of Operations
- Gabriel Rose, of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management

### Introduction of Members

- Task Force Members

### Review and Discuss Task Force Responsibilities

- Task Force Members

### Guiding Question #1

- *What option(s) are available for nonpublic schools to provide transportation for students to and from school?*

### The State of Pupil Transportation in Maryland

- MSDE Staff

### Discussion and Recommendations

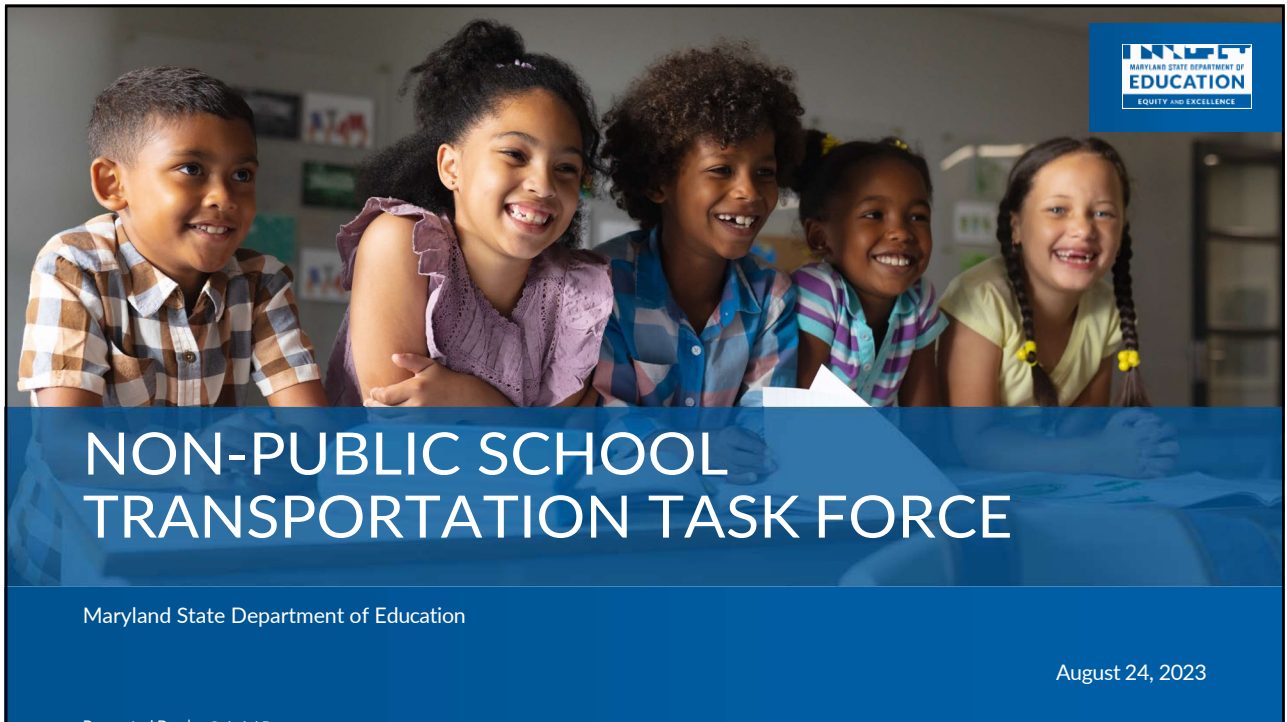
- Task Force Members

### Guiding Question #2


- *Can Public School Systems Accommodate Nonpublic School Students Within Their Operation?*

### Next Steps

- MSDE Staff



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 Introduction

## Presentation Outline

1. Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force
2. HB0486 – Delegate Attar
3. Current Status of Public-School Transportation
4. Current Understating of Nonpublic Transportation
5. State Funding
6. What Programs are Other States Using?
7. Survey sent out to Nonpublic Schools


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 Introduction


## How to use Google Meets

- Mute and unmute
- Video on and off
- Hand raised and lowered
- Comments on the bottom right
- Comments and video will be saved for public



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 Introduction

## Open Meeting Act Requirements

Maryland's Open Meetings Act is a statute that requires many State and local public bodies to hold their meetings in public, to give the public adequate notice of those meetings, and to allow the public to inspect meetings minutes. The Act permits public bodies to discuss some topics confidentially. The Act's goals are to increase the public's faith in government, ensure the accountability of government to the public, and enhance the public's ability to participate effectively in our democracy.

- A recording of this meeting will be stored and posted later on the MSDE website for the public to view if interested.
- Minutes will be taken and sent out to members no later than a week prior to the following meeting.

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Introduction

## Membership

<p><b>Gabriel Rose</b> – Director, Office of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management</p>	<p><b>Darryl Clark</b> - MTA’s Director of Service Development</p>	<p><b>Arielle Frankston</b> - Morris, Executive Director, Teach MD</p>
<p><b>Justin Dayhoff</b> - Assistant State Superintendent of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy</p>	<p><b>Sharicca Bolden</b> – Baltimore City</p>	<p><b>Jeremy Joseph</b>, Principal - Archbishop Curley High School</p>
<p><b>Delegate Dalya Attar</b></p> <p><b>Delegate Courtney Watson</b></p>	<p><b>Lynne Harris</b> – Montgomery</p>	<p><b>Ann Wagner, EdD</b> - Head of School, The Banner School</p>
<p><b>Senator Shelly Hettleman</b></p> <p><b>Senator Paul D Corderman</b></p>	<p><b>Kenny West</b> – Baltimore County</p> <p><b>Steve Nelson</b> – President, Maryland School Bus Contractors Association</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Representee from associations representing nonpublic schools – <b>TBD</b></p>

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Introduction

## Membership

**Krishnanda Tallur** - Deputy State Superintendent - Office of Operations

**Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D.** - Executive Director - Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

**Laurel Cratsley** - Education Policy Program Analyst - Government Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

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Introduction

## Meeting Schedule

<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #1</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #2</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #3</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #4</b>
<b><u>Thursday, August 24</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, September 14</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, September 28</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday, October 17</u></b>
2:00 – 4:00pm	1:00 – 3:00pm	1:00 – 3:00pm	2:00 – 4:00pm
Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet
<a href="https://meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc">meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-krv">meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-krv</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq">meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oiq">meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oiq</a>
Join by phone	Join by phone	Join by phone	Join by phone
(US) +1 386-401-8690 PIN: 234 449 613#	(US) +1 414-909-5925 PIN: 308 484 001#	(US) +1 631-602-0364 PIN: 411 944 384#	(US) +1 904-300-0350 PIN: 811 529 220#

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Introduction

## Opening Remarks

Krishnanda Tallur - Deputy State Superintendent - Office of Operations

Gabriel Rose- Director, Office of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management

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 Task Force

## Task Force Deliverable

The task force will make recommendations regarding methods by which the State may support the reduction in use of passenger vehicles for the transportation of nonpublic school students and policies for busing programs for the transportation of nonpublic school students.

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 Task Force

## Task Force Timeline

On or before December 15, 2023, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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 Task Force


## Task Force History and Purpose

HB0486 (Task Force to Study Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation)

- Delegate Attar

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 Public Schools

## Current Status of Public-School Transportation

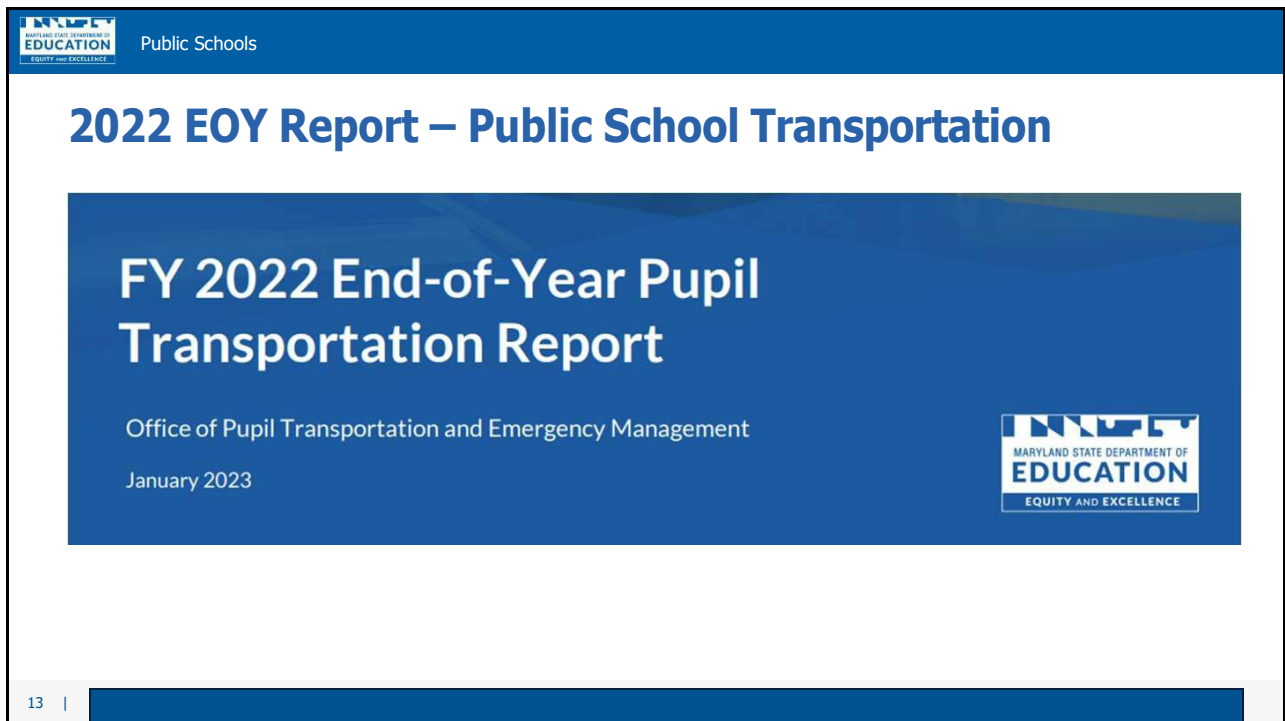
**24 LEAs plus the SEED School of Baltimore**

The MD School for the Blind and the MD school for the Deaf have transportation provided to and from by LEAs. May have transportation during the day that is run by each location.

**LEAs are required by Federal Law to transport:**

1. Students with transportation identified as a related service on their IEP;
2. Students that are in foster care; and
3. Students that are homeless or families in transition.

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Public Schools

## 2022 EOY Report – Public School Transportation

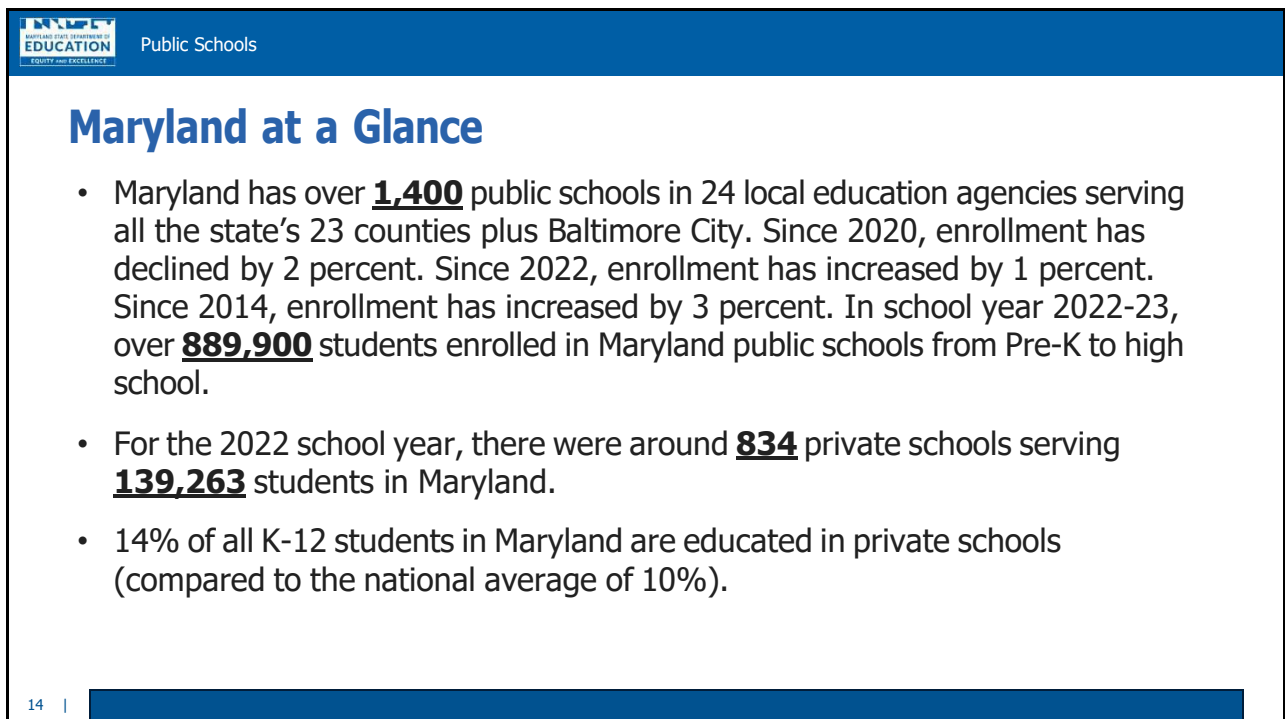
# FY 2022 End-of-Year Pupil Transportation Report

Office of Pupil Transportation and Emergency Management  
January 2023

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

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Public Schools

## Maryland at a Glance

- Maryland has over **1,400** public schools in 24 local education agencies serving all the state's 23 counties plus Baltimore City. Since 2020, enrollment has declined by 2 percent. Since 2022, enrollment has increased by 1 percent. Since 2014, enrollment has increased by 3 percent. In school year 2022-23, over **889,900** students enrolled in Maryland public schools from Pre-K to high school.
- For the 2022 school year, there were around **834** private schools serving **139,263** students in Maryland.
- 14% of all K-12 students in Maryland are educated in private schools (compared to the national average of 10%).

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School System	Non-Disabled Pupils Transported				Disabled Pupils Transported				Total Disabled Oct 2021* Counts	Total Transported at Public Expense	Nonpublic Non-Disabled Transported at Local Expense	Grand Total of Pupils Transported
	Elementary Public	Middle Public	Secondary Public	Total Non-Disabled Public	Public	Non-public	Blind	Deaf				
Allegany	1,939	1,419	1,356	4,714	207	21	-	1	229	4,943	-	4,943
Anne Arundel	24,388	17,392	18,193	59,973	1,547	401	8	22	1,978	61,951	-	61,951
Baltimore City	1,384	17,198	23,564	42,146	2,223	213	38	27	2,501	44,647	-	44,647
Baltimore Co.	30,659	18,729	24,154	73,542	3,493	324	74	23	3,914	77,456	-	77,456
Calvert	3,799	2,584	2,685	9,068	278	21	4	5	308	9,376	-	9,376
Caroline	1,687	1,009	1,010	3,706	101	-	1	-	102	3,808	-	3,808
Carroll	11,338	5,190	7,683	24,211	385	60	3	10	458	24,669	9	24,678
Cecil	6,570	-	7,367	13,937	260	66	8	1	335	14,272	-	14,272
Charles	9,535	5,678	8,298	23,511	789	44	4	1	838	24,349	-	24,349
Dorchester	1,964	820	1,008	3,792	77	5	-	-	82	3,874	-	3,874
Frederick	12,998	7,078	9,952	30,028	857	82	4	110	1,053	31,081	-	31,081

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School System	Elementary Public	Middle Public	Secondary Public	Total Non-Disabled Public	Public	Non-public	Blind	Deaf	Total Disabled Oct 2021* Counts	Total Transported at Public Expense	Nonpublic Non-Disabled Transported at Local Expense	Grand Total of Pupils Transported
Harford	15,704	2,010	13,292	31,006	850	162	23	9	1,044	32,050	-	32,050
Howard	16,936	10,750	13,584	41,270	1,563	233	6	19	1,821	43,091	-	43,091
Kent	621	382	516	1,519	22	2	-	-	24	1,543	-	1,543
Montgomery	38,353	25,316	32,435	96,104	4,976	469	13	30	5,488	101,592	-	101,592
Prince George's	28,490	26,413	23,241	78,144	4,696	772	18	20	5,506	83,650	-	83,650
Queen Anne's	3,305	1,682	2,317	7,304	136	8	-	-	144	7,448	-	7,448
St. Mary's	7,812	3,913	5,179	16,904	399	15	1	-	415	17,319	-	17,319
Somerset	1,308	388	907	2,603	56	-	1	-	57	2,660	-	2,660
Talbot	1,953	400	1,776	4,129	70	5	1	1	77	4,206	-	4,206
Washington	8,441	4,625	6,033	19,099	466	60	4	16	546	19,645	-	19,645
Wicomico	7,504	655	4,938	13,097	160	-	1	5	166	13,263	204	13,467
Worcester	2,399	1,949	1,938	6,286	83	-	1	2	86	6,372	-	6,372
<b>TOTAL STATE</b>	<b>240,652</b>	<b>156,361</b>	<b>212,521</b>	<b>609,534</b>	<b>23,734</b>	<b>2,964</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>27,213</b>	<b>636,747</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>636,960</b>

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## Number of Students Transported

**889,900** students enrolled in Maryland public schools

**636,960** students are eligible and/or take public school transportation

**72%** of Maryland Public School Students are eligible and/or take public school transportation

What do the other **28%** do?

- High School Juniors and Seniors may drive themselves or other to and from school
- Students may walk or bike to and from school
- Parents or custodians may drive them to and from school

School System	Public Owned Vehicles by Type				Contract Route Vehicles by Type				Total Route Vehicles by Type				Total Route Vehicles
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	
Allegany	-	-	20	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	103	-	103
Anne Arundel	-	-	52	3	-	-	497	89	-	-	549	92	641
Baltimore City	3	-	9	22	16	-	164	-	19	-	173	22	214
Baltimore Co.	-	-	664	-	-	-	144	-	-	-	808	-	808
Calvert	-	-	-	-	15	14	105	-	15	14	105	-	134
Caroline	-	-	25	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	57	-	57
Carroll	-	-	-	-	-	-	249	7	-	-	249	7	256
Cecil	-	-	8	1	-	1	130	1	-	1	138	2	141
Charles	4	-	7	-	-	9	276	-	4	9	283	-	296
Dorchester	-	-	8	-	-	-	45	1	-	-	53	1	54
Frederick	19	-	322	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	322	-	341
Garrett	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	-	-	-	63	-	63
Harford	-	-	96	-	-	-	345	2	-	-	441	2	443
Howard	-	-	-	-	-	-	460	7	-	-	460	7	467
Kent	-	-	15	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	20	-	20
Montgomery	-	-	505	773	-	-	-	-	-	-	505	773	1,278




School System	Public Owned Vehicles by Type				Contract Route Vehicles by Type				Total Route Vehicles by Type				Total Route Vehicles
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	
Prince George's	-	-	1,028	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,028	-	1,028
Queen Anne's	-	-	19	-	-	-	73	-	-	-	92	-	92
St. Mary's	7	-	2	-	-	-	189	4	7	-	191	4	202
Somerset	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	1	-	-	31	1	32
Talbot	-	-	3	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	33	36
Washington	-	-	137	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	183	-	183
Wicomico	-	1	26	-	-	-	89	-	-	1	115	-	116
Worcester	-	-	-	-	-	66	3	-	-	66	3	-	69
<b>TOTAL STATE</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3,029</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>7,074</b>

**Public Schools**

## Current and ongoing concerns with public school transportation

1. National and Statewide Driver Shortage
2. School Bus Manufacturing Delays
3. Cost of Equipment and Repairs

 Nonpublic Schools

## Current Understanding of Nonpublic Transportation

**U.S. Department of Education – Transportation for Private Schools**

School buses used to transport students to nonpublic schools must be equipped with seat back crash pads that meet the standards established by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. Md. Transportation Code Ann. §22-417.


School buses, owned by private schools that are exempt from federal income tax under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, are not subject to excise taxes upon issuance of a certificate of title. Md. Transportation Code Ann. §13-810

**COMAR 11.19 Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) - School Vehicles**

COMAR 11.19 sets the standards for all school vehicle drivers, school vehicle construction, and school vehicle inspections

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 Nonpublic Schools


## Howard County

Policy 5200 – Student Transportation

Students who attend parochial schools will receive transportation services as provided in the Howard County Code and HCPSS policies and procedures. This service will be provided only on a space-available basis along existing school bus routes designed to serve public schools. Parochial schools that receive state aid will not receive transportation services.

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Nonpublic Schools

## Calvert County §7–801


(2) Transportation offered by the **Calvert County Board** under this section shall be offered to a student attending a nonpublic school:

- (i) If there is sufficient capacity on the school bus;
- (ii) If the student resides on, along, or near a public highway in the county on which a public school bus or conveyance operates;
- (iii) If the student resides in the public school transportation district served by the public school bus;
- (iv) Only on the routes, school days, and hours of transportation that coincide with the routes, school days, and hours of transportation for students attending public schools in the county; and
- (v) In the case of a student who attends a nonpublic school that is not on the public school bus route, only to the public school on the route which is nearest to the nonpublic school.

(3) The Calvert County Board is not responsible for the safety of any nonpublic school student who is transported on a public school bus under this subsection after the student is discharged from the public school bus, and the board may not be held liable in any civil action arising from an act or omission that occurs after the student is discharged from the public school bus.

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Nonpublic Schools

## St. Mary's County

In 1941, the County, through the St. Mary's County Code, enacted Public Law, Chapter 116-1 entitled "Bus Transportation". This law was established and specifically states that children who attend schools in St. Mary's County, that do not receive state aid (non-public schools), and who live on or along or near to a public road in St. Mary's County, on which public school bus service is being provided, that they shall be entitled to non-public school bus transportation. In short, school transport vehicles shall operate only on public roadways, as listed for maintenance on the latest official State, County, or Town highway map(s). Exceptions for service onto private roads, will be made based on special circumstances and will be only on roads that are properly maintained. All exceptions must be approved by the Board of Education's Superintendent of Schools or his / her designee.

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## St. Mary's County

If there is a student whose family resides in St. Mary's County, there is No Charge for using the non-public school transportation system. However, there is a \$900 per student per year charge for all out-of-County residents based on the fee schedule determined for the current school year. For shorter durations of time, the fee may be prorated (ie for half a school year, the fee may be reduced by 50%). For extenuating circumstances and hardships, the fee may be waived in whole or in part, based upon review of a written request.

St. Mary's county pays \$2.2 million for bus contract services for the private schools, six of which are Catholic.

They transport around 1,400 students to private schools

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## State Funding for Pupil Transportation

(a) The State shall distribute grants as provided under this section to the county boards to provide transportation services for public school students and disabled children for whom transportation is to be provided under § 8–410 of this article. Appropriations for student transportation shall be budgeted in a separate budget category as provided in § 5–101 of this title. If the amount that is appropriated to a county under this section in a fiscal year is more than the actual cost of providing student transportation services in that county, a county board may apply any excess funds to costs of pupil transportation in subsequent years. None of these funds may be paid to or claimed by any subdivision, nor may any of these funds be reverted to any subdivision. A county board may not transfer State revenues from the student transportation category to any other category as a result of this section.

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## State Funding for Pupil Transportation

(d) For each fiscal year, in addition to the base grant for student transportation provided under subsection (c) of this section, a disabled student transportation grant shall be distributed to each county board. The amount of the grant to each board shall be equal to the product of the number of disabled students requiring special transportation services who are transported by the county board in the previous fiscal year and:

- (5) \$1,000 in fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter.




School System	October 2020 Number of Students Transported	FY 2022 Disabled Student Grant Times \$1,000	FY 2021 Regular Grant (FY 2020 Plus CPI 1.0100)	FY 2022 Regular Grant (FY 2021 Plus CPI 1.0100)	FY 2022 Total Grant
Allegany	172	\$172,000	\$4,869,354	\$4,918,048	\$5,090,048
Anne Arundel	139	\$139,000	\$25,308,563	\$25,561,649	\$25,700,649
Baltimore City	71	\$71,000	\$18,330,893	\$18,514,202	\$18,585,202
Baltimore Co.	142	\$142,000	\$31,187,886	\$31,499,765	\$31,641,765
Calvert	210	\$210,000	\$6,042,282	\$6,102,705	\$6,312,705
Caroline	76	\$76,000	\$2,888,659	\$2,917,546	\$2,993,546
Carroll	298	\$298,000	\$10,335,372	\$10,438,726	\$10,736,726
Cecil	214	\$214,000	\$5,463,227	\$5,517,859	\$5,731,859
Charles	8	\$8,000	\$11,318,758	\$11,431,946	\$11,439,946
Dorchester	5	\$5,000	\$2,642,709	\$2,675,834	\$2,680,834
Frederick	324	\$324,000	\$13,428,478	\$13,562,763	\$13,886,763
Garrett	33	\$33,000	\$3,236,756	\$3,269,124	\$3,302,124



School System	October 2020 Number of Students Transported	FY 2022 Disabled Student Grant Times \$1,000	FY 2021 Regular Grant (FY 2020 Plus CPI 1.0100)	FY 2022 Regular Grant (FY 2021 Plus CPI 1.0100)	FY 2022 Total Grant
Harford	442	\$442,000	\$13,127,028	\$13,258,298	\$13,700,298
Howard	75	\$75,000	\$18,524,592	\$18,709,838	\$18,784,838
Kent	20	\$20,000	\$1,690,555	\$1,707,461	\$1,727,461
Montgomery	44	\$44,000	\$41,703,347	\$42,120,380	\$42,164,380
Prince George's	36	\$36,000	\$41,055,473	\$41,466,028	\$41,502,028
Queen Anne's	84	\$84,000	\$3,606,736	\$3,642,803	\$3,726,803
St. Mary's	0*	\$0	\$7,222,789	\$7,295,017	\$7,295,017
Somerset	41	\$41,000	\$2,008,853	\$2,028,942	\$2,069,942
Talbot	52	\$52,000	\$1,803,144	\$1,821,175	\$1,873,175
Washington	400	\$400,000	\$7,476,108	\$7,550,869	\$7,950,869
Wicomico	79	\$79,000	\$5,631,674	\$5,687,991	\$5,766,991
Worcester	70	\$70,000	\$3,289,374	\$3,322,268	\$3,392,268
<b>TOTAL STATE</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>\$3,035,000</b>	<b>\$282,192,610</b>	<b>\$285,021,237</b>	<b>\$288,056,237</b>

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## Guiding Discussion

What option(s) are available for nonpublic schools to provide transportation for students to and from school?

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 State Programs


## States That Transport Nonpublic Students to and from School

Survey sent out to all 50 State Directors of Pupil Transportation.

- Out of all 50 states 28 responded
- Of those 28, ten reported having something in law or regulation that related to the transportation of private/nonpublic school transportation other than for IEPs.

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 State Programs

## What Programs are Other States Using?

Alaska - Alaska law governing pupil transportation is in Alaska Statute (AS) 14.09. Those statutes include a provision in AS 14.09.020 regarding transport of nonpublic school students, with program costs to be paid by legislative appropriation, but no appropriations have been received for the program for the last 30 years.

Delaware - The General Assembly has not provided non-public funding since FY17. The state did provide the transportation funds to the nonpublic, nonprofit school or designated agent for eligible families. The family then directed the nonpublic, nonprofit school or designated agent how the funds are to be dispersed e.g., some or all the funds to the parent, Guardian or Relative Caregiver for tuition, for school provided transportation costs, for an allowance, etc.

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State Programs

## What Programs are Other States Using?

Illinois - School districts that provide school bus transportation for public school students shall provide transportation, without cost, for children who attend any school other than a public school if they reside at least one and one-half miles from the school attended. The children must reside along the route constituting the regular school bus route and extend from some point on the regular route nearest or most easily accessible to their homes to and from the school attended or to or from a point on a regular route that is nearest or most easily accessible to the school attended by such children.

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State Programs

## What Programs are Other States Using?


Indiana - C 20-27-11-1 Transportation of rural charter and nonpublic school students  
Sec. 1. (a) If a student who attends:

- (1) a nonpublic school located in a school corporation; or
- (2) a charter school located in a rural school corporation; resides on or along the highway constituting the regular route of a public school bus, the governing body of the school corporation shall provide transportation for the nonpublic or charter school student on the school bus.

(b) The transportation provided under this section must be from the home of the nonpublic or charter school student or from a point on the regular route nearest or most easily accessible to the home of the nonpublic or charter school student to and from the nonpublic or charter school or to and from the point on the regular route that is nearest or most easily accessible to the nonpublic or charter school from which the student can walk to and from the nonpublic or charter school.

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 State Programs

## What Programs are Other States Using?


Iowa - The program is mandated by Iowa Code 285.1(14), which states:

"Resident pupils attending a nonpublic school located either within or without the school district of the pupil's residence shall be entitled to transportation on the same basis as provided for resident public school pupils under this section."

There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the department of education funds sufficient to pay the approved claims of public school districts for transportation services to nonpublic school pupils.

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 State Programs

## What Programs are Other States Using?

Kansas - 72-6491. Transportation of nonpublic school pupils.

(a) Whenever any school district shall provide or furnish transportation under authority of this act for pupils attending the public schools, pupils residing in such school district attending private or parochial schools of elementary or high school grades which are accredited by the state board of education, who shall reside on or along the highway or street constituting the regular route of a school bus, or who shall gather at some place on the regular route nearest or most easily accessible to their homes or such schools, where such transportation is provided for pupils attending the public schools, shall be entitled to the privilege of such school bus transportation upon such regular route as arranged for the benefit of pupils attending public schools. For the purposes of this section, regular route shall not include any route arranged by the school district for the transportation of exceptional children to special education services.

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## What Programs are Other States Using?

Michigan - 380.1321 Transportation for pupils; requirements; payment.

1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if a board of a school district provides transportation for its resident pupils, other than students with a disability transported under article 3 or other pupils who cannot safely walk to school, the school board shall provide transportation to and from school for each resident public or nonpublic school pupil if both of the following requirements are met:

(a) The school district provides transportation for the elementary school level, middle or junior high school level, or high school level, as defined by the local school board, in which the pupil is enrolled.

(b) The pupil attends either the public or the nearest state approved nonpublic school in the school district to which the pupil is eligible to be admitted.

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## What Programs are Other States Using?

Nebraska - State Statute 79-601 states:

A school board of any public school district that provides transportation for children attending that public school shall also provide transportation without cost for children residing in the district that attend non-profit, non-public schools lying within that same district. Transportation provided for the non-profit, non-public school only extends from some point on the regular public school route nearest or most easily accessible to their home to and from a point on the public school route.

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## What Programs are Other States Using?

New Jersey - NJSA 18A:39-1 and 39-1a:

In New Jersey, State law requires that school districts transport public school students if they live "remote" from their assigned school of attendance, which is defined as more than two miles between home and school for K-8 students and more than 2.5 miles for high school students. If a district is required to transport public school students, then it is also required to provide transportation services to nonpublic school students who reside in the district and live remote, but within 20 miles, of the nonpublic school of attendance.

A school district may not spend more than a certain amount per pupil to provide non-public transportation. For the current school year, that amount is \$1,022 per pupil. If a district is unable to provide a seat on a bus for non-public school students within that limit, then the district pays the parent that maximum dollar amount.

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## What Programs are Other States Using?

Wisconsin- 121.54 Transportation by school districts.

1. Except as provided in sub. (1) or otherwise provided in this subsection, the school board of each district operating high school grades shall provide transportation to and from the school a pupil attends for each pupil residing in the school district who attends any elementary grade, including kindergarten, or high school grade at a private school located 2 miles or more from the pupil's residence, if such private school is a school within whose attendance area the pupil resides and is situated within the school district or not more than 5 miles beyond the boundaries of the school district measured along the usually traveled route.

40 |



State Programs

## Survey for Nonpublic Schools

The Task Force shall collect information from each local board of education and any other relevant county department regarding nonpublic school student busing programs in the county, other than programs for the transportation of students in special education Placements.

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Survey

## Survey for Nonpublic Schools

Dear Administrative Heads of your school,

In accordance with HB 486 Task Force to Study Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation (2023), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is required to form a task force to examine Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation in Maryland. The purpose of this task force is to make recommendations for certain non-public school student bus transportation matters. To gather information, the task force needs specific details about each non-public school in the state and any busing programs, including a description of the program, its status, and the number of students served by it. This should not include other programs for the transportation of students in special education placements. The data collected will be used to prepare a final report for the Maryland General Assembly.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the necessary information to complete the process. If you serve as the administrative head at multiple campuses, a survey will need to be completed for each school.

The school bus transportation survey will be conducted using an internet-based website and must be completed and submitted by September 15, 2023. To ensure accurate completion of the transportation survey, please carefully follow the instructions enclosed with this letter.

If you need help or have any inquiries about submitting the survey, please reach out to Osh Oshitoye, Ph.D. at 410.767.0364 or [Osh.oshitoye@maryland.gov](mailto:Osh.oshitoye@maryland.gov). For all other questions regarding the survey content related to HB486, kindly contact Gabriel Rose at 410.767.0209 or [Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov](mailto:Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

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Survey

## Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

\* Indicates required question

**Email\***  
Your email

**Your First and Last Name\***  
Your answer

**Your Title\***  
Your answer

**School Identification Number\***  
Enter the School Identification Number provided on the letter you received in the mail. This number must be entered in order for your school information to be reported in statewide publications. ENTER NUMBERS ONLY.  
Your answer

**School Name\***  
Enter the School Name exactly as it appears on the letter you received in the mail. This name must be entered in order for your school information to be reported in statewide publications.  
Your answer

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Survey

## Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

**Student Busing Program Description**

Please respond to the best of your ability to the questions below. If the question does not apply to your school, please enter N/A.

**What is the status of the student busing program(s) at your school?\***


- Operational
- Out-of-service
- Does not apply
- Other (Add to Program Description)

**What student busing program(s) does your school use for student transportation?**  
Please provide the name of the program(s).

If not applicable enter N/A.  
\*

Your answer

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 Survey

## Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

Please provide a description of the program(s).


If not applicable enter N/A.  
\*

Your answer


Where are the administrative offices of the program(s)? Please provide the physical address(es).

If not applicable, enter N/A.  
\*

Your answer

45 | 

45

 Survey

## Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

### Student Enrollment and Student Busing Usage

Please provide the student end-of-year enrollment count for your school as well as the number of students using the student busing program described earlier.

What was your school's 2022-2023 end-of-year enrollment count?\*


Your answer


Out of your school's total 2022-2023 end-of-year enrollment count, how many students were enrolled in special education placements?\*

Your answer

How many of your enrolled students used the student busing program(s) in 2022-2023?  
Please do not include the transportation of students in special education placements.  
If none, please enter 0.\*

Your answer

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 Survey

## Nonpublic School Survey Results

- Non-Public Surveys must be completed and submitted by September 15, 2023, to the MSDE.
- Public School Surveys will also be due by September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Initial data will be available for the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Final data will be provided by the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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 Guiding Discussion

## Guiding Discussion

# Can Public School Systems Accommodate Nonpublic School Students Within Their Operation?

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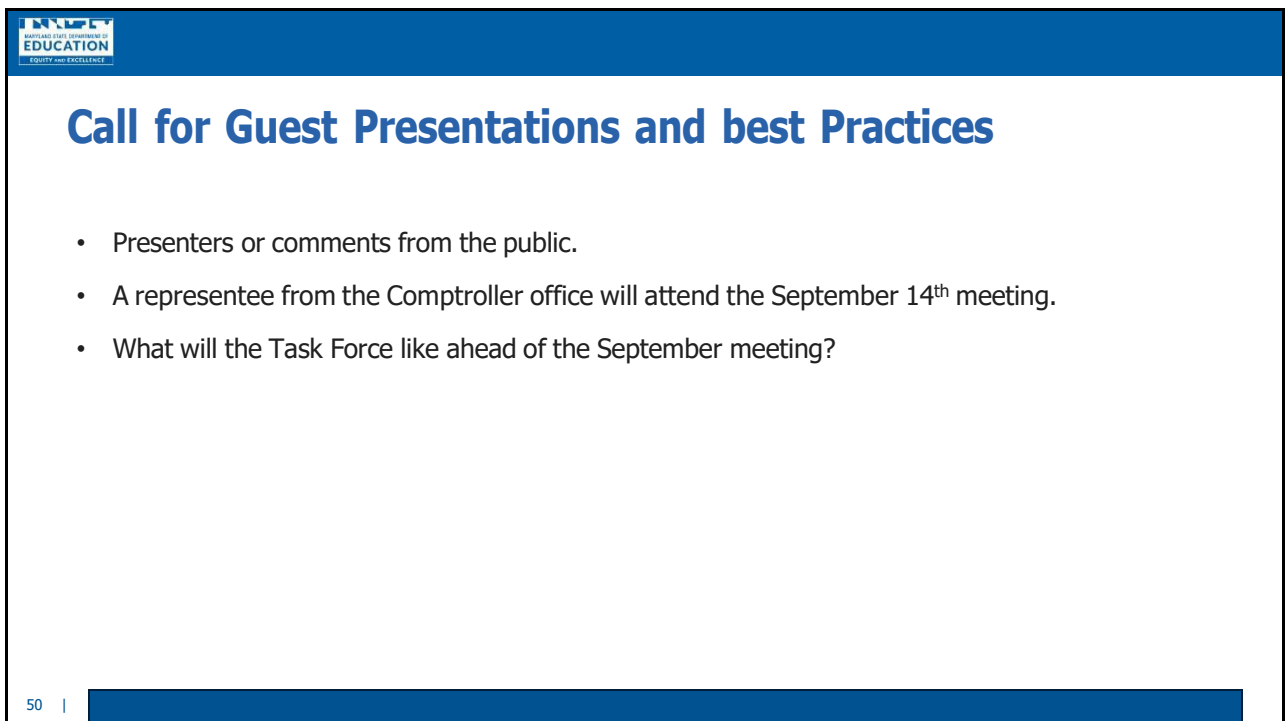


49 |

**Wrap-up**

This slide features a blue header with the Maryland State Department of Education logo and the text 'MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE'. The main content area is white and contains the title 'Wrap-up' in a large, bold, blue font. A blue footer bar at the bottom left contains the number '49' followed by a vertical bar.

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**Call for Guest Presentations and best Practices**

- Presenters or comments from the public.
- A representee from the Comptroller office will attend the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- What will the Task Force like ahead of the September meeting?

This slide features a blue header with the Maryland State Department of Education logo and the text 'MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE'. The main content area is white and contains the title 'Call for Guest Presentations and best Practices' in a large, bold, blue font. Below the title is a bulleted list with three items. A blue footer bar at the bottom left contains the number '50' followed by a vertical bar.

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# Appendix C

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## MEETING TWO AGENDA AND PRESENTATIONS (SEPTEMBER 14, 2023)

Agenda:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/09142023/NonpublicSchoolTransportationTaskForceMeeting2Agenda09142023.pdf>

Presentation:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/09142023/NonpublicSchoolTransportationTaskForceMeeting2Presentation09142023.pdf>



## Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force

Thursday, September 14, 2023 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting link: [meet.google.com/awk-rzxx-kry](https://meet.google.com/awk-rzxx-kry)

---

### Welcome

- Gabriel Rose, of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management

### Review Meeting Minutes

- Task Force Members

### Guiding Question #1

- *How will the Task Force Decide on Recommendations?*

### Survey Results

- Gabriel Rose, of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management

### Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs


- Jeff Thompson, Transportation Director for St. Mary's County Public Schools
- Todd Watkins, Past Transportation Director for Montgomery County Public Schools
- Fred Punturiero, Transportation Director for Frederick County Public Schools

### Guiding Question #2

- *What are the options to consider as recommendations for nonpublic school transportation?*

### Next Steps

- MSDE Staff




**NONPUBLIC SCHOOL  
TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE**


Maryland State Department of Education

Chair | Gabriel Rose

September 14, 2023



1



Introduction

## Presentation Outline

1. Welcome
2. Review Meeting Minutes
3. Guiding Question #1
4. Survey Results
5. Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs
6. Guiding Question #2
7. Next Steps

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1. Welcome
2. Review Meeting Minutes
3. Guiding Question #1
4. Survey Results
5. Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs
6. Guiding Question #2
7. Next Steps

## Welcome

*A welcome to members of the Task Force*

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Welcome

## How to use Google Meets

- Mute and unmute
- Video on and off
- Hand raised and lowered
- Comments on the bottom right
- Comments and video will be saved for public



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Welcome

## Open Meeting Act Requirements

Maryland's Open Meetings Act is a statute that requires many State and local public bodies to hold their meetings in public, to give the public adequate notice of those meetings, and to allow the public to inspect meetings minutes. The Act permits public bodies to discuss some topics confidentially. The Act's goals are to increase the public's faith in government, ensure the accountability of government to the public, and enhance the public's ability to participate effectively in our democracy.

- A recording of this meeting will be stored and posted on the MSDE website for the public to view.
- Minutes will be taken and sent out to members no later than a week prior to the following meeting.
- <https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/index.aspx>

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Welcome

## Membership

<p><b>Gabriel Rose</b> – Director, Office of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management</p>	<p><b>Darryl Clark</b> - MTA's Director of Service Development</p>	<p><b>Arielle Frankston</b> - Morris, Executive Director, Teach MD</p>
<p><b>Justin Dayhoff</b> - Assistant State Superintendent of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy</p>	<p><b>Sharicca Bolden</b> – Baltimore City</p>	<p><b>Jeremy Joseph</b>, Principal - Archbishop Curley High School</p>
<p><b>Delegate Dalya Attar</b></p> <p><b>Delegate Courtney Watson</b></p>	<p><b>Lynne Harris</b> – Montgomery County</p>	<p><b>Ann Wagner, EdD</b> - Head of School, The Banner School</p>
<p><b>Senator Shelly Hettleman</b></p> <p><b>Senator Paul D Corderman</b></p>	<p><b>Kenny West</b> – Baltimore County</p> <p><b>Steve Nelson</b> – President, Maryland School Bus Contractors Association</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Representee from associations representing nonpublic schools – <b>TBD</b></p>

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9.14.2023

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Welcome

## Membership

**Krishnanda Tallur** - Deputy State Superintendent - Office of Operations

**Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D.** - Executive Director - Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

**Laurel Cratsley** - Education Policy Program Analyst - Government Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

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Introduction

## Meeting Schedule

<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #1</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #2</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #3</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #4</b>
<b><u>Thursday, August 24</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, September 14</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, September 28</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday, October 17</u></b>
2:00 – 4:00pm	1:00 – 3:00pm	1:00 – 3:00pm	2:00 – 4:00pm
Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet
<a href="https://meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc">meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-krv">meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-krv</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq">meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oiq">meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oiq</a>
Join by phone	Join by phone	Join by phone	Join by phone
(US) +1 386-401-8690 PIN: 234 449 613#	(US) +1 414-909-5925 PIN: 308 484 001#	(US) +1 631-602-0364 PIN: 411 944 384#	(US) +1 904-300-0350 PIN: 811 529 220#

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- 1. Welcome
- 2. **Review Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Guiding Question #1
- 4. Survey Results
- 5. Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs
- 6. Guiding Question #2
- 7. Next Steps

## Review August 24th Meeting

*An overview of the Task Force and the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.*


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## Task Force Deliverable

The task force will **make recommendations** regarding methods by which the State may support the reduction in use of passenger vehicles for the transportation of nonpublic school students and policies for busing programs for the transportation of nonpublic school students.

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Review August 24th Meeting

## Task Force Timeline

On or before December 15, 2023, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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Review August 24th Meeting

## Minutes for approval

- Minutes from the August 24 meeting were sent to members on September 11, 2023.
- Upon approval of the minutes from August 24, they will be posted on the Task Force webpage.
- Any revisions needed will be corrected before posting.

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- 1. Welcome
- 2. Review Meeting Minutes
- 3. Guiding Question #1**
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## Guiding Question #1

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 Guiding Question #1

# *How will the Task Force Decide on Recommendations?*

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## Survey Results

*An overview of the Task Force and the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

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Survey Results

## Survey Letter for Nonpublic Schools

Dear Administrative Heads of your school,

In accordance with HB 486 Task Force to Study Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation (2023), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is required to form a task force to examine Nonpublic Student Bus Transportation in Maryland. The purpose of this task force is to make recommendations for certain non-public school student bus transportation matters. To gather information, the task force needs specific details about each non-public school in the state and any busing programs, including a description of the program, its status, and the number of students served by it. This should not include other programs for the transportation of students in special education placements. The data collected will be used to prepare a final report for the Maryland General Assembly.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the necessary information to complete the process. If you serve as the administrative head at multiple campuses, a survey will need to be completed for each school.

The school bus transportation survey will be conducted using an internet-based website and must be completed and submitted by September 15, 2023. To ensure accurate completion of the transportation survey, please carefully follow the instructions enclosed with this letter.

If you need help or have any inquiries about submitting the survey, please reach out to Osh Oshitoye, Ph.D. at 410.767.0364 or [Osh.oshitoye@maryland.gov](mailto:Osh.oshitoye@maryland.gov). For all other questions regarding the survey content related to HB486, kindly contact Gabriel Rose at 410.767.0209 or [Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov](mailto:Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov). Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

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MDE
Survey Results

## Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

\* Indicates required question

**Email\***  
Your email

**Your First and Last Name\***  
Your answer

**Your Title\***  
Your answer

**School Identification Number\***  
Enter the School Identification Number provided on the letter you received in the mail. This number must be entered in order for your school information to be reported in statewide publications. ENTER NUMBERS ONLY.  
Your answer

**School Name\***  
Enter the School Name exactly as it appears on the letter you received in the mail. This name must be entered in order for your school information to be reported in statewide publications.  
Your answer

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MDE
Survey Results

## Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

**Student Busing Program Description**

Please respond to the best of your ability to the questions below. If the question does not apply to your school, please enter N/A.

**What is the status of the student busing program(s) at your school?\***

- Operational
- Out-of-service
- Does not apply
- Other (Add to Program Description)


What student busing program(s) does your school use for student transportation?  
Please provide the name of the program(s).

If not applicable enter N/A.  
\*

Your answer

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 Survey Results

## Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

Please provide a description of the program(s).

If not applicable enter N/A.  
\*

Your answer


Where are the administrative offices of the program(s)? Please provide the physical address(es).

If not applicable, enter N/A.  
\*

Your answer

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 Survey Results

## Survey Questions for Nonpublic Schools

### Student Enrollment and Student Busing Usage

Please provide the student end-of-year enrollment count for your school as well as the number of students using the student busing program described earlier.

What was your school's 2022-2023 end-of-year enrollment count?\*

Your answer

Out of your school's total 2022-2023 end-of-year enrollment count, how many students were enrolled in special education placements?\*


Your answer

How many of your enrolled students used the student busing program(s) in 2022-2023? Please do not include the transportation of students in special education placements. If none, please enter 0.\*

Your answer

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Nonpublic Schools Survey Results

## Survey Results

- The MSDE Received **420** responses from those nonpublic schools that received the survey.
- Of the 420 responses the results to the question “What is the status of the student busing program(s) at your school? ” are:
  - **297** report that that question “Does not apply”
  - **10** report it being “Out-of-service”
  - **89** report it being “Operational”
  - **24** report “Other”
- Addresses for these schools are being reviewed and should be organized by county for the next Task Force meeting.

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Nonpublic Schools Survey Results

## Survey Results – Operational

- Of the 89 that reported “Operational” some of the respondents are Special Education Private Schools that receive transportation by the public schools.
  - 22 schools listed as having “Operational” transportation were non-public special education centers that had transportation provided by the public-school students’ IEP.
  - 40 identified that they either own and operate or contact services for school transportation. (could not breakdown to and from school and extracurricular activities)
  - Remaining 27 said either MTA, N/A, or St. Mary’s Public Schools

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Nonpublic Schools Survey Results

## Survey Results – Out of Service

- Of the 10 that reported “Out-of-Service” some of the respondents had conflicting information.
  - Some reported having transportation in the past (St. Augustine School and The Banner School)
  - Others identified LEAs bus did not provide more information (St. Mary’s School and St. Paul’s Christian Childrens Center)
  - The remaining were N/A.

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Nonpublic Schools Survey Results

## Survey Results – Other

- Of the 24 that reported “Other” information provided needs to be broken down further as some indicated that transportation was provided, was not provided, or wrote N/A.
  - Some schools stated that they provide transportation on field trips but not to and from school.
  - Some state they transport some but not all students.
  - The remaining listed N/A.

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Nonpublic Schools Survey Results

## Survey Results – Does Not Apply

- Of the 297 that reported “Does Not Apply” information provided was overwhelmingly “N/A” for most fields.
  - Some responses were received that indicated that they may have transportation in some form.
  - These responses will be reviewed and categorized appropriately.

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Survey Results

## Survey Results – Public Schools

- Anne Arundel County Public Schools
  - Responded yes but did not respond to follow up request.
- Carroll County Public Schools
  - Transport a small number of students who attend St. John’s Catholic School in Westminster which is adjacent to West Middle School. These students have been allowed to ride CCPS West Middle School buses provided that there is room on the bus and the students board the bus at a scheduled West Middle School bus stop.

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Survey Results

## Survey Results – Public Schools

- Charles County Public Schools
  - Transport students who attended a private “Archbishop Neale” that pays tuition to the school and receive transportation from the county; this is something they have been doing for decades. The private school students ride with general education students’ bus to the neighborhood-zoned high school, and they provide a shuttle that takes them directly to their school from that high school.
  
- Frederick County Public Schools
  - FCPS provides transportation as a courtesy as long as there is room on the bus, parents transport to an existing stop and those residing one mile from the school (Mother Seton) can utilize the bus.

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Survey Results


## Survey Results – Public Schools

- Howard County Public Schools
  - Students who attend parochial schools will receive transportation services as provided in the Howard County Code and HCPSS policies and procedures. This service will be provided only on a space-available basis along existing school bus routes designed to serve public schools. Parochial schools that receive state aid will not receive transportation services.
  
- Montgomery County Public Schools
  - MCPS transports two Jewish schools for dismissal only. One receives service Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; and the other Monday thru Friday. MCPS has a contract in place for services with both schools and are provided transportation in alignment with MCPS Board policies.

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 Survey Results

## Survey Results – New Jersey (593 LEAs)

- Non-Public Transportation Information:
  - The law (NJ 18A:39-1.8) requires all public-school districts to offer either transportation or what is known as “Aid in Lieu of Transportation” to students who attend a non-profit school within 2 to 20 miles (for elementary and middle schools) or 2.5 to 20 miles (for high schools) from their home. The student must meet the age requirement of their resident district and be enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12 in their non-public school.
  - These students are said to live "remote from school."
  - Whenever a school district is required to provide transportation to students attending regular public-school programs, students attending nonpublic schools who meet those distance requirements may also be entitled to transportation services.
  - The maximum allowable per-student expenditure for nonpublic school transportation for the 2023-2024 school year is \$1,165, or a daily rate of \$6.47 (\$1,165 divided by 180)

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1. Welcome
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6. Guiding Question #2
7. Next Steps

## Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs

An understanding of current nonpublic school transportation and past pilots in Maryland.

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 **Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs**

**Jeff Thompson**  
**Transportation Director**  
**St. Mary's County Public Schools**

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 **Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs**

**Todd Watkins**  
**Past Transportation Director**  
**Montgomery County Public Schools**

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Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs


# Fred Punturiero

## Transportation Director

### Frederick County Public Schools

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Spotlight on Existing and Past Programs

## Spotlight on St. Mary's, Montgomery, and Frederick Counties

1. How do you implement this program in line with your LEA's policies and procedures?
2. How does your LEA deal with school closures, increased cost of operations, and student discipline?
3. What factors do you believe have contributed to the success, or lack there of, related to this type of program?
4. Do you have any feedback for the group about nonpublic school transportation?

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- 1. Welcome
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## Guiding Question #2

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 Guiding Question #2

*What are the options to consider as recommendations for nonpublic school transportation?*

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## Options for Consideration

- Increase awareness of MTA public Transportation Option.
- Tax Credit for parents that obtain transportation other than personal vehicles.
- Using Public School Buses during off peak hours.
- Transport nonpublic school students in buses along with public school students.
- Transport nonpublic school students in buses along with public school students **if room allows.**
- Transport nonpublic school students in separate public-school buses.
- Transport nonpublic school students in nonpublic purchased or contracted school buses.
- Require LEAs to develop their own teams to decide the best way to transport Nonpublic school students.
- Have the state provide funding for nonpublic schools to buy or contract transportation options.
- Have the local county fund transportation for nonpublic school transportation.
- Carpool Stipends where parents and schools certify their participation.

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## Next Steps

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Next Steps

## Next Steps

- Next Meeting:
  - September 28, 2023, from 1pm to 3pm on Google Meets.
  - Presenters or comments from the public?
  - What will the Task Force like ahead of the September 28 meeting?
  - Any future meeting topics?
- Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Webpage:  
<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/index.aspx>

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Next Steps

## Next Steps

### Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #3

**Thursday, September 28**

**1:00 – 3:00pm**

Join with Google Meet

[meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq](https://meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq)

Join by phone

(US) +1 631-602-0364 PIN: 411 944 384#

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# Appendix D

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## MEETING THREE AGENDA AND PRESENTATIONS (SEPTEMBER 28, 2023)

Agenda:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/09282023/NonpublicSchoolTransportationTaskForceMeeting3Agenda09282023.pdf>

Presentation:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/09282023/NonpublicSchoolTransportationTaskForceMeeting3Presentation09282023.pdf>

Mentimeter Survey Slides:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/09282023/NonpublicSchoolTransportationTaskForceMeeting3MentimeterSurveySlides09282023.pdf>



## Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force

Thursday, September 28, 2023 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting link: [meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nza](https://meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nza)

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### Welcome/Introductions

- Gabriel Rose, of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management

### Public Comment

- Registered guests

### Meeting #2 Recap and Guiding Questions

- Task Force Members

### Guiding Question #1

- *What does the data from the nonpublic school survey results tell the Task Force? What additional data does the task force need?*

### Survey Results - Breakdown

- Gabriel Rose, of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management

### Guiding Question #2

- *What recommendation(s) would be the most uncomplicated and straightforward to implement with the most impact to student ridership?*


### Developing Recommendations

- Task Force Members

### Future Meeting and Next Steps

- MSDE Staff






**NONPUBLIC SCHOOL  
TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE**


Maryland State Department of Education

Chair | Gabriel Rose

October 17, 2023



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Introduction


## Presentation Outline

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Meeting #3 Recap and Guiding Questions
3. Guiding Question
4. Developing Recommendations
5. Possible Future Meeting and Next Steps

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1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Meeting #3 Recap
4. Guiding Question
5. Developing Recommendations
6. Possible Future Meeting and Next Steps

## Welcome/Introductions

*A welcome to members of the Task Force*

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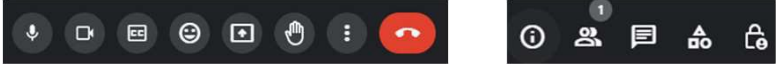
3



### Welcome/Introductions


## How to use Google Meets

- Mute and unmute
- Video on and off
- Hand raised and lowered
- Comments on the bottom right
- Comments and video will be saved for the public



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Welcome/Introductions


## Open Meeting Act Requirements

Maryland's Open Meetings Act is a statute that requires many State and local public bodies to hold their meetings in public, to give the public adequate notice of those meetings, and to allow the public to inspect meetings minutes. The Act permits public bodies to discuss some topics confidentially. The Act's goals are to increase the public's faith in government, ensure the accountability of government to the public, and enhance the public's ability to participate effectively in our democracy.

- A recording of this meeting will be stored and posted on the MSDE website for the public to view.
- Minutes will be taken and sent out to members no later than a week prior to the following meeting.
- <https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/index.aspx>

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Welcome/Introductions

## Membership

<p><b>Gabriel Rose</b> – Director, Office of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management</p> <p><b>Vacant</b> - Assistant State Superintendent of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy</p> <p><b>Delegate Dalya Attar</b></p> <p><b>Delegate Courtney Watson</b></p> <p><b>Senator Shelly Hettleman</b></p> <p><b>Senator Paul D Corderman</b></p>	<p><b>Darryl Clark</b> - MTA's Director of Service Development</p> <p><b>Sharicca Bolden</b> – Baltimore City</p> <p><b>Lynne Harris</b> – Montgomery County</p> <p><b>Kenny West</b> – Baltimore County</p> <p><b>Steve Nelson</b> – President, Maryland School Bus Contractors Association</p>	<p><b>Arielle Frankston</b> - Morris, Executive Director, Teach MD</p> <p><b>Jeremy Joseph</b>, Principal - Archbishop Curley High School</p> <p><b>Ann Wagner, EdD</b> - Head of School, The Banner School</p> <p><b>Rabbi Ariel Sadwin</b> - President of Maryland CAPE,</p>
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Welcome/Introductions

## Membership

**Krishnanda Tallur** - Deputy State Superintendent - Office of Operations

**Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D.** - Executive Director - Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

**Laurel Cratsley** - Education Policy Program Analyst - Government Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

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Introduction

## Meeting Schedule

<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #1</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #2</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #3</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #4</b>
<b><u>Thursday, August 24</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, September 14</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, September 28</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday, October 17</u></b>
2:00 – 4:00pm	1:00 – 3:00pm	1:00 – 3:00pm	2:00 – 4:00pm
Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet
<a href="https://meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc">meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-krv">meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-krv</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq">meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oiq">meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oiq</a>
Join by phone	Join by phone	Join by phone	Join by phone
(US) +1 386-401-8690 PIN: 234 449 613#	(US) +1 414-909-5925 PIN: 308 484 001#	(US) +1 631-602-0364 PIN: 411 944 384#	(US) +1 904-300-0350 PIN: 811 529 220#

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**Welcome/Introductions**

## Task Force Deliverable

The task force will **make recommendations** regarding methods by which the State may support **the reduction** in use of passenger vehicles for the transportation of nonpublic school students and **policies** for busing programs for the transportation of nonpublic school students.

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**Welcome/Introductions**

## Task Force Timeline

On or before **December 15, 2023**, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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- 1. Welcome/Introductions
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Meeting #2 Recap
- 4. Guiding Question #1
- 5. Survey Results - Breakdown
- 6. Guiding Question #2
- 7. Developing Recommendations
- 8. Future Meeting and Next Steps

## Public Comment

*Public Comment Period for members of the Public*

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- 1. Welcome/Introductions
- 2. Public Comment
- 3. Meeting #2 Recap**
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## Review October 28th Meeting

*An overview of the Task Forces' October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minutes for adoption and resources from prior meetings.*

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Review September 14th Meeting

## Minutes for approval

- Minutes from the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were sent to members on October 10, 2023.
- Upon approval of the minutes from September 28, they will be posted on the Task Force webpage.
- If revisions are needed, email Gabriel Rose at [Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov](mailto:Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov)

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Review September 14th Meeting

## Resources from Prior Task Force Meetings

- Public School Pupil Transportation**
  - St. Mary's County Public Schools
  - Frederick County Public Schools
  - Montgomery County Public Schools
- MSDE 2022 End of Year Transportation Report**
- Survey Results from Nonpublic Schools**
- Survey Results from Public Schools**
- Results from State Surveys**
- Mentimeter Survey Results**

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Review September 14th Meeting

# Summery of Recommendations from Prior Task Force Meetings

**Decrease the number of personal vehicles on the road for private school transportation.**

- Increase nonpublic school transportation **options** for families.
- Expand MTA options for families in serviceable areas.

**Avoid significant impact to public school systems with any implementation options.**

- Increase communication between local public/non-public schools.

**Expand the understanding of what Nonpublic Schools are using for transportation.**


**Expand the awareness of existing transportation programs for nonpublic schools.**

**Create policies for nonpublic school busing programs.**

- Encourage communication between nonpublic school transportation offices

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1. Welcome/Introductions
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## Guiding Question #1

*What does the data gathered from our survey tell us? How can this data assist the Task Force on making transportation recommendations for the State?*

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1. Welcome/Introductions
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## Survey Results - Breakdown

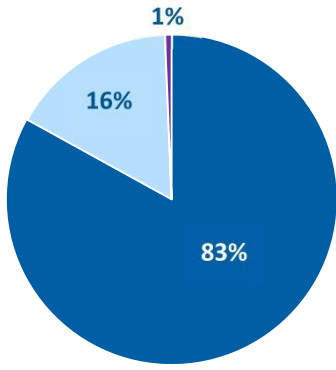
*A further breakdown of data obtained through the MSDE survey of nonpublic school transportation programs.*

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Survey Results - Breakdown

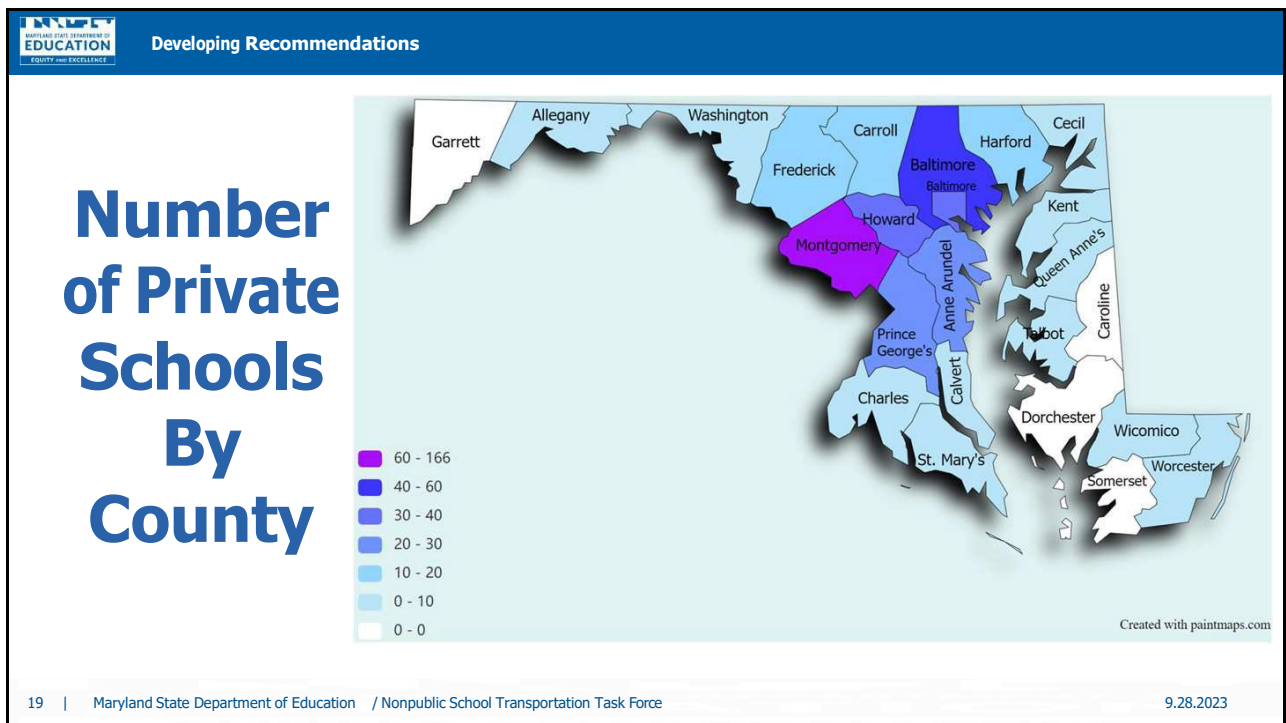
## Nonpublic School Transportation Program Results



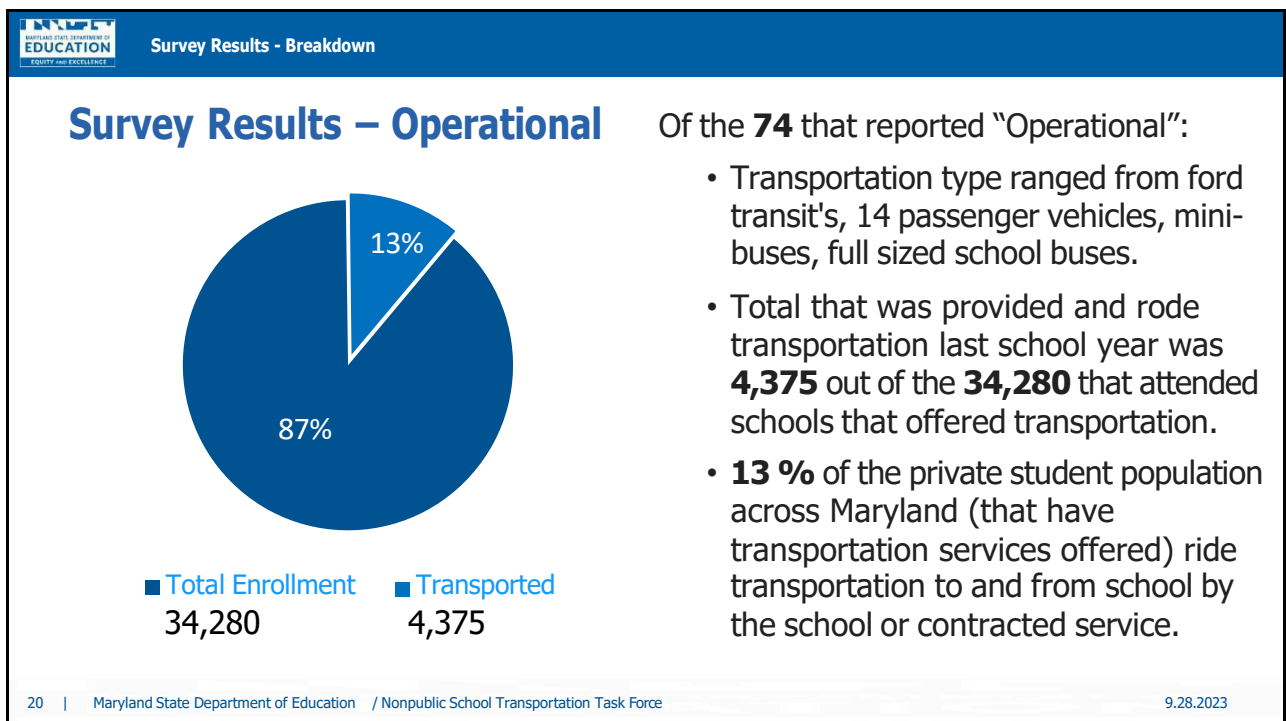
- The MSDE Received **376** responses from those nonpublic schools that received the survey.
- A total of **91,509** Nonpublic students were identified in this survey.
- Of the **376** responses the results to the question "What is the status of the student busing program(s) at your school?" are:
  - 299** report that that question "Does not apply"
  - 74** report it being "Operational"
  - 3** report it being "Out-of-service"
- Addresses for these schools were reviewed and have been organized by County/City

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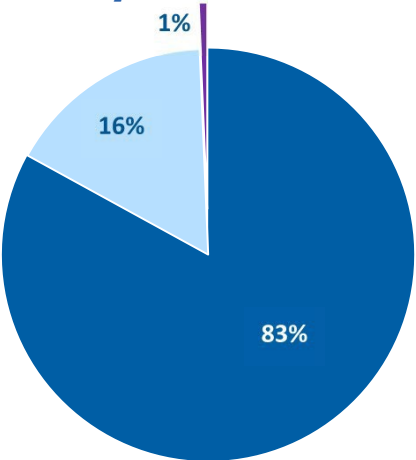
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MSDE
Survey Results - Breakdown

## Survey Results – Out of Service



Category	Percentage
Dark Blue	83%
Light Blue	16%
Very Light Blue	1%

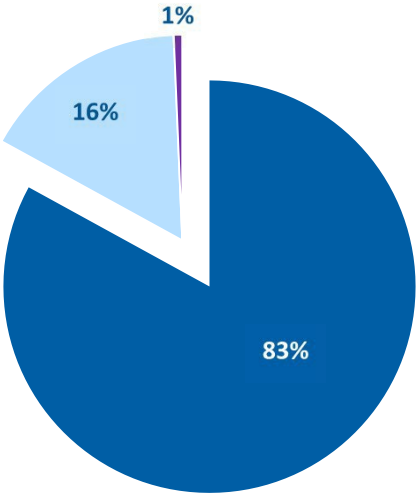
- **Of the 3 that reported "Out-of-Service":**
  - **One responded:** There were 3 buses that picked up our students from bus stops in the county and transported them to our school and then home again. The buses were dedicated to our school and not mixed with public school students. This was done for decades, and it was great!
  - **One responded:** Howard County Private Schools would love to have bus service resumed, if possible, to best serve our students and their families, but they stopped running the bus service to our school.
  - **One responded:** The school previously ran a school-owned bus to pick up students from a few select locations.

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MSDE
Survey Results - Breakdown

## Survey Results – Does Not Apply



Category	Percentage
Dark Blue	83%
Light Blue	16%
Very Light Blue	1%

- Of the **299** that reported "Does Not Apply" information provided was overwhelmingly "N/A" for most fields.
- There was limited ability to follow up on all N/A responses and thus clarification does not exist.

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- 1. Welcome/Introductions
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## Guiding Question #2

*What recommendation(s) would be the most uncomplicated and straightforward to implement with the most impact?*

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- 1. Welcome/Introductions
- 2. Public Comment
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- 7. Developing Recommendations**
- 8. Future Meeting and Next Steps

## Developing Recommendations

*A discussion on how the Task Force will start to develop recommendations.*

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Developing Recommendations

# Mentimeter.com

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Developing Recommendations

## Recommendation Grading Matrix

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
<p>The expected impact of funding the recommendation.</p> <p><b>State</b> – Money or Grants from the State or Tax Credit</p> <p><b>Districts</b> – Local counties and/or government office</p>	<p>How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the recommendation.</p> <p>The higher number of individuals involved in a recommendation or the amount of work that would go in, would increase the difficulty to implement.</p>	<p>The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.</p> <p>The greater the impact the lower number of personal vehicles on the road.</p>	<p>The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.</p> <p>The easier the consensus. the less opposition the recommendation would encounter from different groups or offices.</p>

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Developing Recommendations

## Increase Awareness of MTA Public Transportation Option

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
<p>The expected impact of funding the recommendation.</p> <p><b>State - Minimal</b></p> <p><b>Districts - None</b></p> <p><b>Families - None</b></p>	<p>How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green;"><b>Easy</b></p>	<p>The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;"><b>Low</b></p>	<p>The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green;"><b>Easy</b></p>

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Developing Recommendations

## A Tax Credit for Qualified Bus Transportation Expenses

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
<p>The expected impact of funding the recommendation.</p> <p><b>State - Medium</b></p> <p><b>Districts - None</b></p> <p><b>Families - Minimal</b></p>	<p>How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green;"><b>Easy</b></p>	<p>The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: orange;"><b>Medium</b></p>	<p>The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green;"><b>Easy</b></p>

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Developing Recommendations

## Carpool Stipends Where Parents and Schools Certify Their Participation

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
<p>The expected impact of funding the recommendation.</p> <p><b>State - Medium</b></p> <p><b>Districts - None</b></p> <p><b>Families - Minimal</b></p>	<p>How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: #e69d00;"><b>Medium</b></p>	<p>The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: #e60000;"><b>Low</b></p>	<p>The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: #008000;"><b>Easy</b></p>

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Developing Recommendations

## Using Public School Buses During Off Peak Hours

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
<p>The expected impact of funding the recommendation.</p> <p><b>State - None</b></p> <p><b>Districts - High</b></p> <p><b>Families - None</b></p>	<p>How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: #e60000;"><b>Hard</b></p>	<p>The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: #e69d00;"><b>Medium</b></p>	<p>The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: #e60000;"><b>Hard</b></p>

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 Developing Recommendations

## Transport Nonpublic School Students in Buses Along with Public School Students.

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
The expected impact of funding the recommendation.  State - <b>Medium</b> Districts - <b>High</b> Families - None	How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>Hard</b></div>	The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>Medium</b></div>	The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>Hard</b></div>

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 Developing Recommendations


## Transport Nonpublic School Students in Separate Public School Buses.

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
The expected impact of funding the recommendation.  State - <b>High</b> Districts - <b>High</b> Families - None	How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>Hard</b></div>	The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>Medium</b></div>	The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>Hard</b></div>

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 Developing Recommendations

### Transport Nonpublic School Students in Buses Along with Public School Students If Room Allows.

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
The expected impact of funding the recommendation.  State – None Districts – <b>Minimal</b> Families – None	How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>Easy</b></div>	The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>Low</b></div>	The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>Medium</b></div>

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 Developing Recommendations

### Transport Nonpublic School Students in Nonpublic Purchased or Contracted School Buses.

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
The expected impact of funding the recommendation.  State – None Districts – None Families – <b>High</b>	How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>Hard</b></div>	The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>Medium</b></div>	The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>Hard</b></div>

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Developing Recommendations

### Require LEAs to Develop Their Own Teams to Decide the Best Way to Transport Nonpublic School Students.

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
The expected impact of funding the recommendation.	How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the	The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.	The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.
State – None Districts – Minimal Families – Minimal	<b>Easy</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Hard</b>

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Developing Recommendations

### Have the State Provide Funding for Nonpublic Schools to Buy or Contract Transportation Options.

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
The expected impact of funding the recommendation.	How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the	The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.	The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.
State – <b>High</b> Districts – None Families – None	<b>Hard</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Hard</b>

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Developing Recommendations

## Have the Local County Fund Transportation for Nonpublic School Transportation.

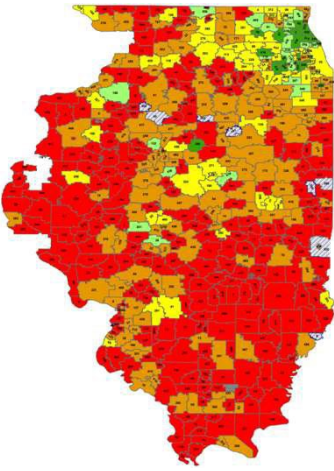
Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
<p>The expected impact of funding the recommendation.</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;"><b>State</b> – None</p> <p><b>Districts</b> – <b>High</b></p> <p><b>Families</b> – None</p>	<p>How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red; margin-top: 20px;"><b>Hard</b></p>	<p>The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: orange; margin-top: 20px;"><b>Medium</b></p>	<p>The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red; margin-top: 20px;"><b>Hard</b></p>

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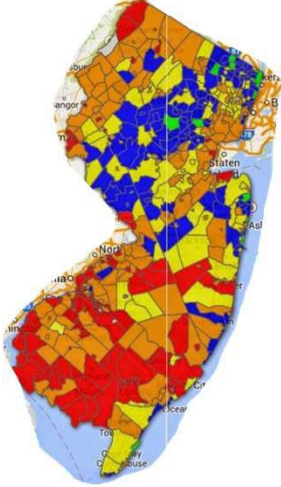
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Developing Recommendations

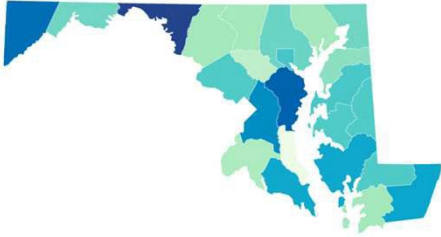
Illinois



New Jersey

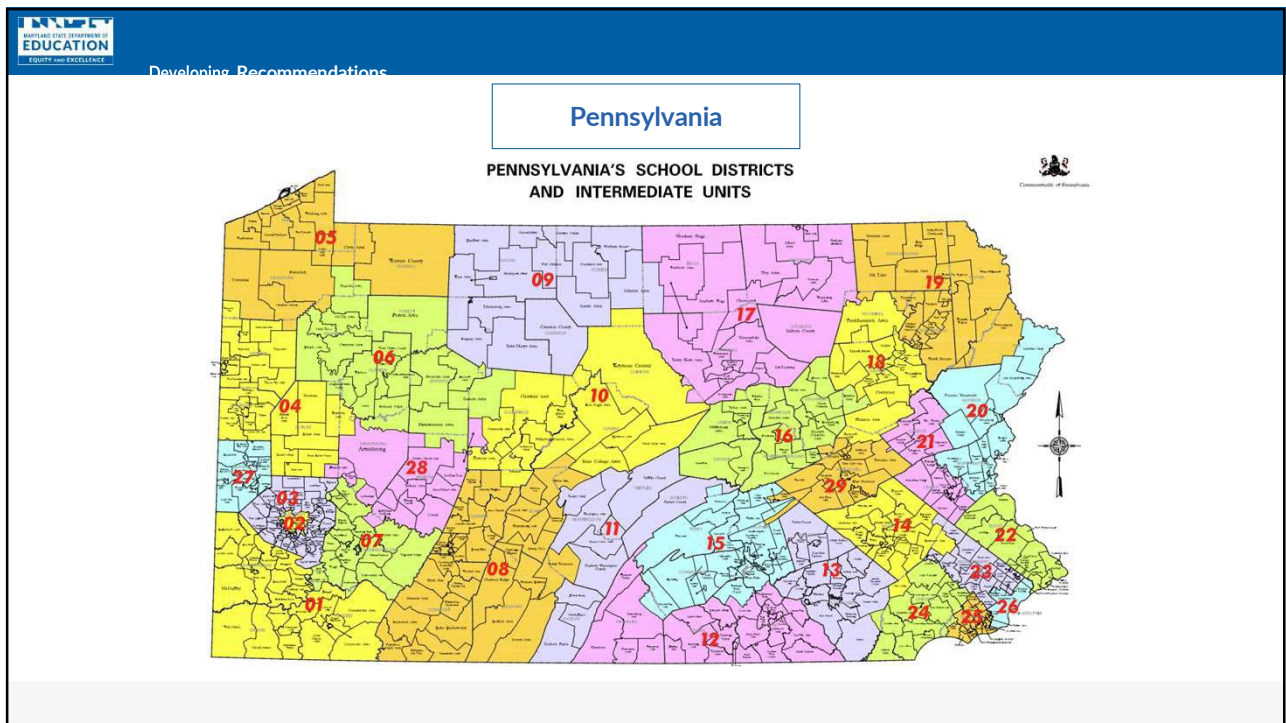


Maryland



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**Options for Consideration**

- Increase awareness of MTA public Transportation Option.
- Tax Credit for parents that obtain transportation other than personal vehicles.
- Using Public School Buses during off peak hours.
- Transport nonpublic school students in buses along with public school students.
- Transport nonpublic school students in buses along with public school students **if room allows.**
- Transport nonpublic school students in separate public-school buses.
- Transport nonpublic school students in nonpublic purchased or contracted school buses.
- Require LEAs to develop their own teams to decide the best way to transport Nonpublic school students.
- Have the state provide funding for nonpublic schools to buy or contract transportation options.
- Have the local county fund transportation for nonpublic school transportation.
- Carpool Stipends where parents and schools certify their participation.

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EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE
Developing Recommendations

## Consensus Decision Making

1. A Recommendation is stated. The Chair states that a recommendation is before the group for consideration. The recommendation may be asked to be repeated to ensure that all members have heard the recommendation.
2. Time is provided for members to ask clarifying questions. The individual that proposed the recommendation may answer if asked by another member.
3. An Open Discussion is called for. All members engage in discussion to amend, refine or restructure the recommendation as needed. There is no time limit, and all members will respect the time needed to discuss the recommendation. If concerns are resolved, the recommendation is reiterated and moves to the 4<sup>th</sup> step. If there is not consensus, the recommendation begins again at step 1 or is tabled.
4. After the Open Discussion, the Chair will ask if there are any unresolved concerns. If none the recommendation is decided.

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Developing Recommendations




1. Welcome/Introductions
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- 8. Future Meeting and Next Steps**

## Future Meeting and Next Steps

When is the next scheduled meeting and next steps for the Task Force?

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**Future Meeting and Next Steps**

## Next Steps

- Next Meeting:
  - October 17, 2023, from 2pm to 4pm on Google Meets.
  - Presenters or comments from the public?
  - What will the Task Force like ahead of the October 17 meeting?
  - Any future meeting topics?
- Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Webpage:  
<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/index.aspx>

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**Future Meeting and Next Steps**

## Next Steps

### Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #4

**Tuesday, October 17**

**2:00 – 3:00pm**

Join with Google Meet

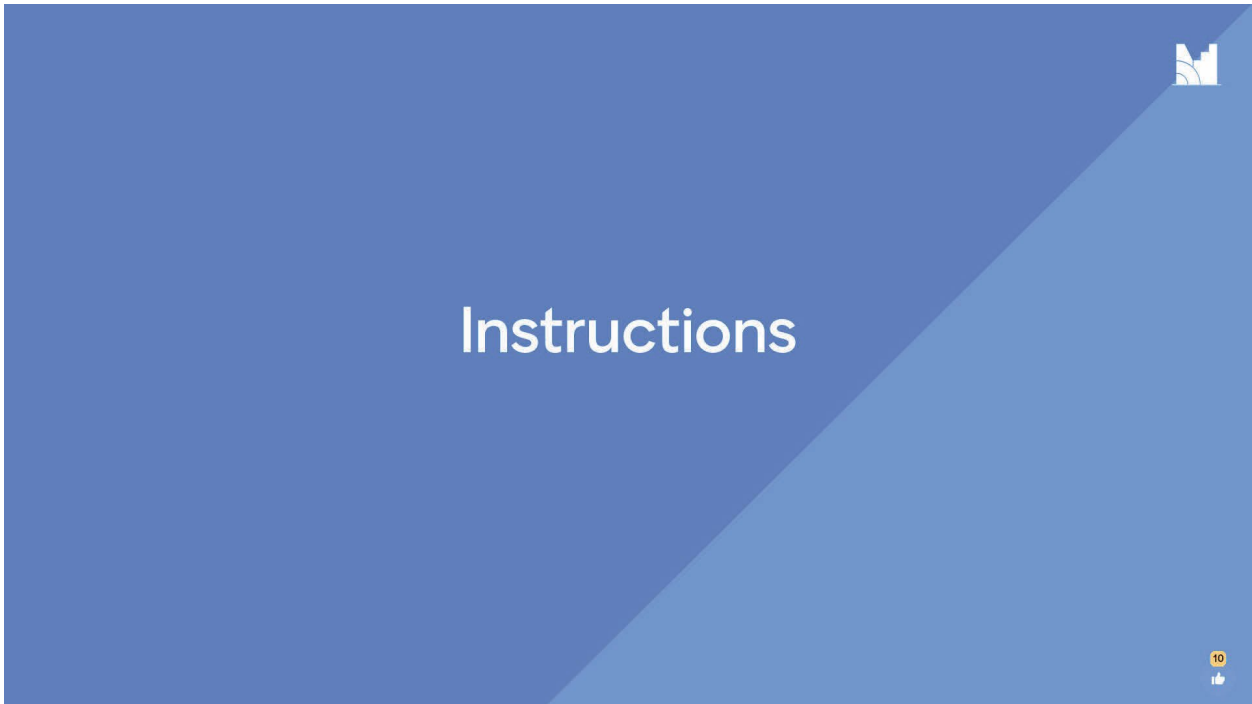
[meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oig](https://meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-oig)

Join by phone

(US) +1 904-300-0350 PIN: 811 529 220#

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A presentation slide with a dark blue background and a lighter blue diagonal stripe. The word "Instructions" is centered in white. In the top right corner, there is a small white icon of a building. In the bottom right corner, there is a small yellow icon with the number "10" and a thumbs-up icon.



A presentation slide with a dark blue background and a lighter blue diagonal stripe. The title "What County Do You Live In?" is in the top left, with "11 responses" below it. A word cloud is centered, featuring the following terms: "baltimore" (vertical, light blue), "baltimore county" (pink), "baltimore city" (large, yellow), "montgomery" (dark blue), "baltimore co" (light blue), and "frederick" (light blue). In the top right corner, there is a small white icon of a building. In the bottom right corner, there are two small yellow icons: one with the number "3" and a thumbs-up icon, and another with the number "11" and a person icon.

### What options have we not considered?

7 responses

Offering a state grant that schools can apply for to provide transportation

I think we have covered most of the ones that have come to our collective minds

Capacity of local transit to adapt routes to provide reasonable routes serving private schools

Financial incentives for individuals to carpool or use group transportation

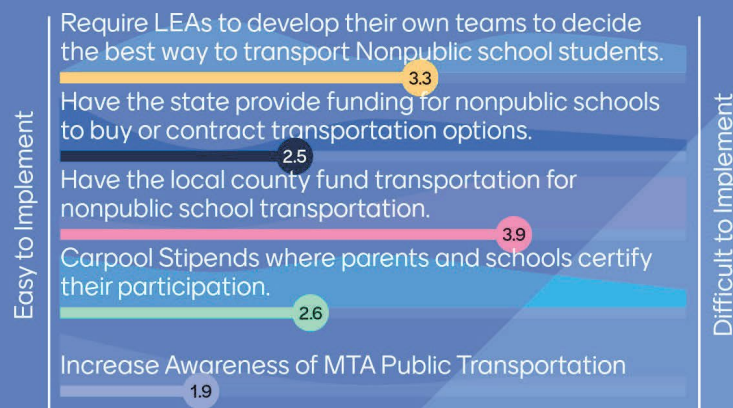
What improvements could be made to MTA service to make families feel good about using it?

Consortium to provide transportation services to private schools

Is there existing information about family expectations of MTA performance?

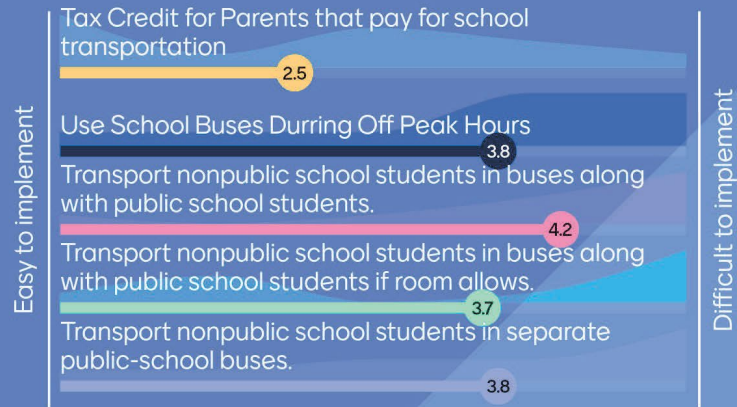


## Ease of Implementation



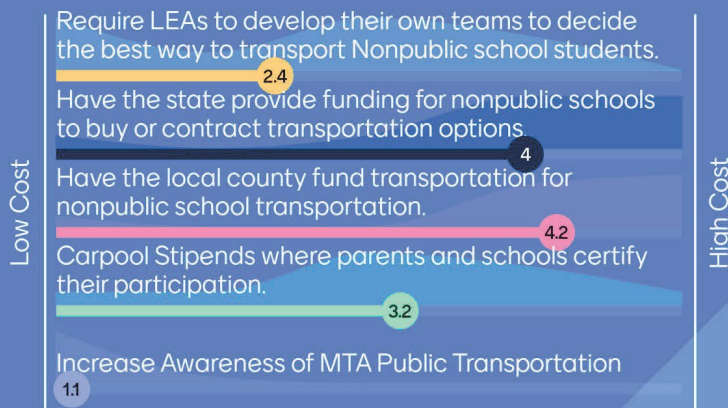


# Ease of Implementation



3 11

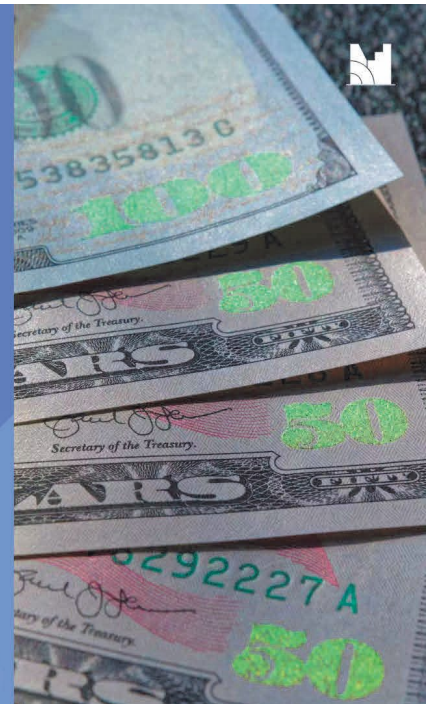
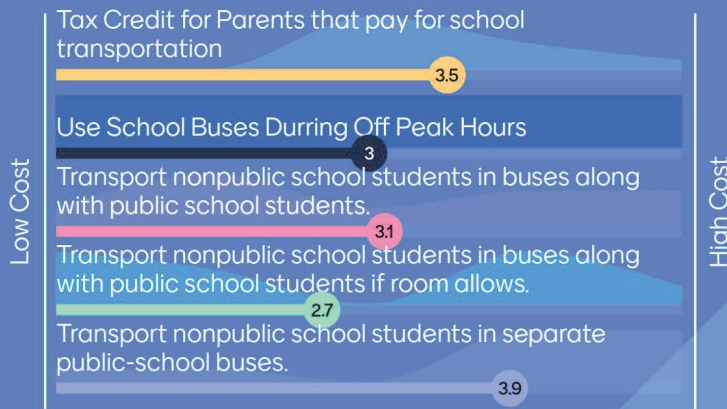
# Cost of Implementation



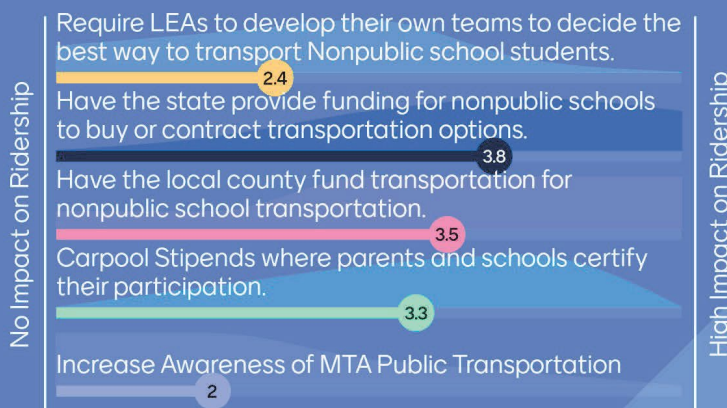
10



# Cost of Implementation



# Impact of Implementation



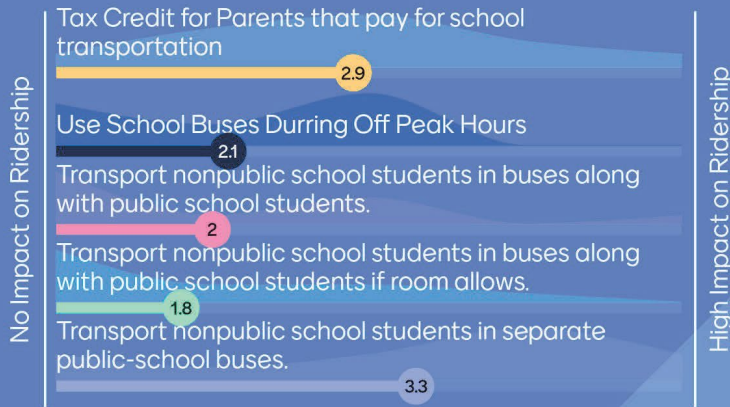
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11



# Impact of Implementation



3 11

## Any other Thoughts? 11 responses

It's hard to assess impacts when we don't know why private school parents, with school provided transportation, don't use it

This is quite obvious, but just will say: more impact costs more money.

I thought it helped out options in perspective. Other thoughts are using a mixed solution based on county and capacity

I think it's essential to understand the motivation of private school families who don't use provided transportation before we recommend a solution to get them out of their cars.

What is the capacity of buses during off peak hours?

It would be helpful to survey families to see whether they would change transportation if it was an option. And what the most appealing option is.

With only 13% using provided options, it seems important to understand why families don't take advantage of it.

How would using buses in off peak hours impact life expectancy and maintenance costs?

Wondering what the percentage of public school students use busing available to them. Is it a constant percentage

1 8

### Any other Thoughts?

11 responses

It would be useful to have more information about private school students' use of MTA.

Non-public schools may enroll students from more than one district.



### Traffic Light to Recommendations

- 0** Not Close
- 6** Getting There
- 1** Looking Good!



# Appendix E

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## MEETING FOUR AGENDA AND PRESENTATIONS (OCTOBER 17, 2023)

Agenda:

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/10172023/NonpublicSchoolTransportationTaskForceMeeting4Agenda10172023.pdf>

Presentation:

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/10172023/NonpublicSchoolTransportationTaskForceMeeting4Presentation10172023.pdf>



## Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting link: [meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-ojq](https://meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-ojq)

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### Welcome/Introductions

- Gabriel Rose, of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management

### Public Comment

- Registered guests

### Meeting #3 Recap and Guiding Questions

- Task Force Members

### Developing Recommendations


- Task Force Members

### Final Vote on Recommendations

- Task Force Members

### Possible Future Meeting and Next Steps

- MSDE Staff




**NONPUBLIC SCHOOL  
TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE**


Maryland State Department of Education

Chair | Gabriel Rose

October 17, 2023



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Introduction

## Presentation Outline

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Meeting #3 Recap and Guiding Questions
4. Developing Recommendations
5. Final Vote on Recommendations
6. Possible Future Meeting and Next Steps

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1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Meeting #3 Recap
4. Developing Recommendations
5. Final Vote on Recommendations
6. Possible Future Meeting and Next Steps

## Welcome/Introductions

*A welcome to members of the Task Force*

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### Welcome/Introductions

## How to use Google Meets

- Mute and unmute
- Video on and off
- Hand raised and lowered
- Comments on the bottom right
- Comments and video will be saved for the public



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Welcome/Introductions

## Open Meeting Act Requirements

Maryland's Open Meetings Act is a statute that requires many State and local public bodies to hold their meetings in public, to give the public adequate notice of those meetings, and to allow the public to inspect meetings minutes. The Act permits public bodies to discuss some topics confidentially. The Act's goals are to increase the public's faith in government, ensure the accountability of government to the public, and enhance the public's ability to participate effectively in our democracy.

- A recording of this meeting will be stored and posted on the MSDE website for the public to view.
- Minutes will be taken and sent out to members no later than a week prior to the following meeting.
- <https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/index.aspx>

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Welcome/Introductions

## Membership

<p><b>Gabriel Rose</b> – Director, Office of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management</p> <p><b>Vacant</b> - Assistant State Superintendent of Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy</p> <p><b>Delegate Dalya Attar</b></p> <p><b>Delegate Courtney Watson</b></p> <p><b>Senator Shelly Hettleman</b></p> <p><b>Senator Paul D Corderman</b></p>	<p><b>Darryl Clark</b> - MTA's Director of Service Development</p> <p><b>Sharicca Bolden</b> – Baltimore City</p> <p><b>Lynne Harris</b> – Montgomery County</p> <p><b>Kenny West</b> – Baltimore County</p> <p><b>Steve Nelson</b> – President, Maryland School Bus Contractors Association</p>	<p><b>Arielle Frankston</b> - Morris, Executive Director, Teach MD</p> <p><b>Jeremy Joseph</b>, Principal - Archbishop Curley High School</p> <p><b>Ann Wagner, EdD</b> - Head of School, The Banner School</p> <p><b>Rabbi Ariel Sadwin</b> - President of Maryland CAPE,</p>
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Welcome/Introductions

## Membership

**Krishnanda Tallur** - Deputy State Superintendent - Office of Operations

**Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D.** - Executive Director - Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

**Laurel Cratsley** - Education Policy Program Analyst - Government Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations

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Introduction

## Meeting Schedule

<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #1</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #2</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #3</b>	<b>Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Meeting #4</b>
<b><u>Thursday, August 24</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, September 14</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday, September 28</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday, October</u></b>
<b><u>17</u></b> 2:00 – 4:00pm	1:00 – 3:00pm	1:00 – 3:00pm	2:00 – 4:00pm
Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet	Join with Google Meet
<a href="https://meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc">meet.google.com/vps-segd-ujc</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-oiq-krv">meet.google.com/qwk-rgxx-oiq-krv</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq">meet.google.com/dat-ipem-nzq</a>	<a href="https://meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-nzq">meet.google.com/cfi-kswt-nzq</a>
Join by phone	Join by phone	Join by phone	Join by phone
(US) +1 386-401-8690 PIN: 234 449 613#	(US) +1 414-909-5925 PIN: 308 484 001#	(US) +1 631-602-0364 PIN: 411 944 384#	(US) +1 904-300-0350 PIN: 811 529 220#

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Welcome/Introductions

## Task Force Deliverable

The task force will **make recommendations** regarding methods by which the State may support **the reduction** in use of passenger vehicles for the transportation of nonpublic school students and **policies** for busing programs for the transportation of nonpublic school students.

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Welcome/Introductions

## Task Force Timeline

On or before **December 15, 2023**, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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- 1. Welcome/Introductions
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Meeting #3 Recap
- 4. Developing Recommendations
- 5. Final Vote on Recommendations
- 6. Possible Future Meeting and Next Steps

## Public Comment

*Public Comment Period for members of the Public*

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- 1. Welcome/Introductions
- 2. Public Comment
- 3. Meeting #3 Recap**
- 4. Developing Recommendations
- 5. Final Vote on Recommendations
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## Review September 28th Meeting

*An overview of the Task Forces' October 28th meeting. Minutes for adoption and resources from prior meetings.*

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Review September 14th Meeting

## Minutes for approval

- Minutes from the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were sent to members on October 10, 2023.
- Upon approval of the minutes from September 28, they will be posted on the Task Force webpage.
- If revisions are needed, email Gabriel Rose at [Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov](mailto:Gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov)

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Review September 14th Meeting

## Resources from Prior Task Force Meetings

- Public School Pupil Transportation**
  - St. Mary's County Public Schools
  - Frederick County Public Schools
  - Montgomery County Public Schools
- MSDE 2022 End of Year Transportation Report**
- Survey Results from Nonpublic Schools**
- Survey Results from Public Schools**
- Results from State Surveys**
- Mentimeter Survey Results**

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Review September 14th Meeting

## Summery of Recommendations from Prior Task Force Meetings

- Decrease the number of personal vehicles on the road for private school transportation.**
  - Increase nonpublic school transportation **options** for families.
  - Expand MTA options for families in serviceable areas.
- Avoid significant impact to public school systems with any implementation options.**
  - Increase communication between local public/non-public schools.
- Expand the understanding of what Nonpublic Schools are using for transportation.**
- Expand the awareness of existing transportation programs for nonpublic schools.**
- Create policies for nonpublic school busing programs.**
  - Encourage communication between nonpublic school transportation offices

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Review September 14th Meeting

## Summery of Guiding Questions from Prior Task Force Meetings

- *What option(s) are available for nonpublic schools to provide transportation for students to and from school? (#1 Meeting)*
- *Can Public School Systems Accommodate Nonpublic School Students Within Their Operation? (#1 Meeting)*
- *How will the Task Force Decide on Recommendations? (#2 Meeting)*
- *What are the options to consider as recommendations for nonpublic school transportation? (#2 Meeting)*
- *What does the data gathered from our survey tell us? How can this data assist the Task Force on making transportation recommendations for the State? (#3 Meeting)*
- *What recommendation(s) would be the most uncomplicated and straightforward to implement with the most impact? (#3 Meeting)*

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1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Public Comment
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6. Possible Future Meeting and Next Steps

## Developing Recommendations

*A discussion on how the Task Force will start to develop recommendations.*


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Developing Recommendations

## Recommendation Grading Matrix

Cost	Feasibility	Impact	Consensus Building
<p>The expected impact of funding the recommendation.</p> <p><b>State</b> – Money or Grants from the State or Tax Credit</p> <p><b>Districts</b> – Local counties</p>	<p>How easy or uncomplicated it would be to implement the recommendation.</p> <p>The higher number of individuals involved in a recommendation or the amount of work that would go in, would increase the difficulty to implement.</p>	<p>The direct change in the number of cars/ automobiles on the road in the morning and afternoon due to the recommendation.</p> <p>The greater the impact the lower number of personal vehicles on the road.</p>	<p>The easy of getting support or agreement on a recommendation by members of different groups or offices.</p> <p>The easier the consensus, the less opposition the recommendation would encounter from different</p>

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Developing Recommendations

## Consensus Decision Making

1. A Recommendation is stated. The Chair states that a recommendation is before the group for consideration. The recommendation may be asked to be repeated to ensure that all members have heard the recommendation.
2. Time is provided for members to ask clarifying questions. The individual that proposed the recommendation may answer if asked by another member.
3. An Open Discussion is called for. All members engage in discussion to amend, refine or restructure the recommendation as needed. There is no time limit, and all members will respect the time needed to discuss the recommendation. If concerns are resolved, the recommendation is reiterated and moves to the 4<sup>th</sup> step. If there is not consensus, the recommendation begins again at step 1 or is tabled.
4. After the Open Discussion, the Chair will ask if there are any unresolved concerns. If none the recommendation is decided.

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1. Welcome/Introductions
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- 5. Final Vote on Recommendations**
6. Possible Future Meeting and Next Steps

## Final Vote on Recommendations

A determination of the final list of recommendations to be included in the final report.

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1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Public Comment
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## Future Meeting and Next Steps

*When is the next scheduled meeting and next steps for the Task Force?*

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Future Meeting and Next Steps

## Next Steps

- Next Meeting:
  - Is there a need for a 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting?
  - A report will be drafted following the 4th Task Force meeting.
  - It will be shared with members
- Nonpublic School Transportation Task Force Webpage:
  - <https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Operations/Pupil-Transportation/TaskForce/index.aspx>

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