

APS Student Transportation and Students with Disabilities Facts and Figures (2017-2018)

Sources: APS Student Transportation Office; APS [Presentation](#) to FAC, 2/12/2018; FY2019 Proposed [Budget](#)

- **Vehicles:** The APS Student Transportation Department has 178 vehicles:
 - 122 are “general education” vehicles
 - 10 new buses will be purchased for 2018-2019, including 5 spares
 - 50 are “special education” vehicles
 - 17 spare “special education” vehicles
 - 3 are “MV1” vehicles
 - 3 are “micro busses”
 - **31% of APS student transportation vehicles are devoted to students with disabilities (56/178)**

- **Bus Runs:** Each bus does 2-3 runs each morning and each afternoon. In School Year 2017-2018, there were 379 morning runs of which:
 - 288 were “general education” runs
 - 91 were “special education” runs
 - 21 of the “special education” runs were to contracted schools
 - **24% of all APS bus runs were for special education students (91/379)**

- **Ridership:** Eligible APS student ridership in 2017-2018 included:
 - 15,487 eligible for regular bus service based on walk zones
 - Between October 16-20, 2017, the greatest number riding the regular bus during any morning or afternoon segment was 5,578
 - Thus, only 36% of those eligible are riding the regular bus
 - 718 eligible for special transportation services based on IEPs or 504 plans
 - Between October 16-20, 2017, the greatest number riding “special” transportation during any morning or afternoon segment was 407
 - Thus, only 57% of students eligible for “special” transportation are riding it
 - With slightly over 4,000 APS students with IEPs, about 10% of students with IEPs ride “special buses”
 - APS student ridership overall changes frequently. There were more than 900 modifications to the original transportation plan this year just for SWD.
 - Out of approximately 27,000 APS students, about 6,000 (5,578 + 407), or 22%, take APS student transportation
 - **Out of about 6,000 APS students riding APS student transportation, 6.8% are students with IEPs or 504 plans riding “special buses” (407/6,000)**
 - **Out of 27,000 APS students total, 1.5% are riding “special buses” (407/27,000)**

- APS is required by law (IDEA) to provide transportation for students with disabilities who require it in their IEP. APS is not required by law to provide transportation for students without disabilities.
- **Staffing:** The School Year 2017-2018 budget included:
 - \$13,330,912 for 247.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in the APS Transportation Department
 - 161 FTEs are drivers (@ \$48,000 average)
 - 73 FTEs are attendants (@ \$35,000 average)
 - APS generally assigns one driver per route (2-3 runs), not per bus. The operating goal for SY2017-2018 was 150 drivers for 150 routes.
 - **Drivers: \$2,400,000** for ~50 drivers of “special education” vehicles (@ \$48,000)
 - This may be an underestimate; “special education” vehicle drivers make ~\$1.38/hour more than other drivers, and work 0.5 hour more per day
 - **Attendants: \$1,925,000** for ~55 attendants serving “special buses” (@ \$35,000)
 - This this may be an underestimate because these attendants are paid ~\$0.50/hour more than other attendants
 - **Thus, the total 2017-2018 budget to staff “special transportation” for 407 students = \$4,325,000, or \$10,627 per student**
 - **32% of the 2017-2018 APS Transportation Department staffing budget is devoted to transporting 407 students, or 1.5% of the APS student population (6.8% of ridership) (\$4,325,000/\$13,330,912)**
- **Capital Budget:** In School Year 2017-2018:
 - APS budgeted an average of \$110,000 for each school bus:
 - Fully equipped special education buses with wheelchair ramps cost \$120,000
 - The average general education bus costs \$105,000
 - The normal life cycle of a school bus is 12-15 years
 - **The total capital cost to replace APS’s 50 “special buses” in today’s dollars = \$6,000,000 (50*\$120,000)**