

CASE BRIEF:

How Colorado's largest school district works to meet increasing transportation demands

Reevaluating transportation to create optimal bus route packages that drive efficiency

The Challenge

With ever-changing bell schedules, program demands and rapid growth in Denver Public Schools (DPS), the transportation team needed to reevaluate and optimize its 322 bus routes and driver staffing requirements to accommodate increasing school, athletic and event transportation demands. And it needed to be done without disrupting current services.

Our Approach

School Bus Logistics provided a comprehensive analysis of runs and routes using routing software to maintain and plan for DPS transportation needs. To do this without disrupting the current work environment, School Bus Logistics duplicated routes into a separate database so that bell schedules, runs and routes could be changed and tested.

With new bell times and more efficient runs to/from schools, School Bus Logistics began the process of creating route packages according to school proximities, taking into consideration staggered bell schedules; with driver hours in mind, we introduced athletic support tie-ins for route packages. In all, 51 route packages were designed to support athletics, allowing drivers to go anywhere in the district to transport sports teams to an assigned territory within four miles of their school-to-home run segments.

A time and distance chart was developed to assist the transportation's athletics coordinator with assigning athletic trips to the 51 athletic support route packages. Through the entire process, School Bus Logistics remained actively engaged in the district's goals and kept its transportation team informed of progress.

The Outcome

By adding athletic support into route packages during peak service hours and making better use of the district's bus fleet, School Bus Logistics was able to create 111 route packages that included more than 7 hours per day for each. As an indirect result, School Bus Logistics also managed to reduce 51 segments from schools, which improved the route packages that were reduced from 322 to 296.

“As the fastest growing urban school district, DPS transportation has become an increasingly challenging demand. School Bus Logistics was able to reduce bus routes while enhancing employee work packages that service both the schools and athletic events. I'd recommend School Bus Logistics to any district that wants to increase efficiency while also meeting the unique needs of its schools.”

— Nicole Portee, executive director of transportation at DPS

About School Bus Logistics

A business partner of the Colorado State Pupil Transportation Association with more than 14 years of combined routing software and operations experience, School Bus Logistics is a Denver-based business that provides consulting and support to school districts. By accurately and efficiently eliminating the challenges of pupil transportation, School Bus Logistics can put money back into the hands of school districts and, ultimately, back into the communities they serve.