

EVOLVING TRANSPORTATION WITH A DISTRICT'S CHANGING INFRASTRUCTURE

A CLIENT CASE SUMMARY

STUDENT TRANSIT works with public, private and charter schools of all sizes. We develop and implement solutions to meet the evolving needs public school districts. In this case a mid-size public school district responded to the state funding changes by closing school buildings. This significantly altered the transportation system that including adding new types of services. This short one-page summary offers a glimpse into the challenges they faced and the collaborative solution developed to meet them.

SAME, SAME, LESS AND FEWER

The title refers to the meeting the economic realities of school finance while still transporting the same population of students from the same geographic area with less funding to fewer schools.

The Largest Impact On Transportation Were Due To:

- Closing Of 3 Of 9 Elementary Out Schools
- Creating A Magnet School That Required New Shuttle Services
- Operating Multiple New Gifted Student Programs
- Supporting School Of Choice Options For Schools With Now Full Enrollment Which Allows Students To Attend A School Outside Their Area
- Increasing Transportation Services To After School Program Providers

THE TRANSPORTATION TEAM RESPONDED BY:

- Complete Re-Design Of All Routes
- Added A 3rd Tier Of Service
- Enhanced The Relationship Management Role For The Drivers With Parents
- Added Bus Aides On Routes That Were At Capacity
- Conducting New Student Management Behavior Training as More Buses Would Be Operating At Peak Capacity
- Conducting New Driver Customer Service Training

THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN:

- Service Levels Have Been Improved TO Both the Schools and Parents Due to Increased Driver Involvement
- Improved Fleet Utilization and Capacity Management
- Budget And Costs Have Been Maintained
- New Program Utilizes the Same Number Of Buses And Drivers

Overall, the new route program was designed and implemented over an 8 week period. There was a period of numerous changes by the school to optimize programs which required immediate changes in transportation.

The entire approach was focused on how we could best use the assets available and the key element was the new role of the drivers as communicators and service providers. Drivers were given communication responsibility for the parents on their routes so that route changes or stop times could be implemented faster and efficiently. We continue to use the press and other organizations as assets to support on-going enhancements to transportation so that in the end the community views transportation as an asset to the school and the community.