

CARROLL COUNTY (MARYLAND) PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Fall 2018 Edition

410-751-3229

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Director:

Michael Hardesty

Supervisor:

Keith Shorter:

**Out-of-County
Special Needs,
Liberty, Century and
South Carroll High
Areas**

John O'Meally:

**Manchester Valley
and Frances Scott Key
High Areas**

Scott Parsons:

**Winters Mill and
Westminster High
Areas**

Kristin Ebert:

**In-County Special
Needs**

Anita Stubenrauch:

**Operational
Performance**

Driver Instructors:

Dena Hozik

Scheneeka Weeden

Angela Williams

**Transportation
Planner/Analysts:**

**Kim Gold &
Lauren Rose**

**Transportation
Routing Associate:**

Pat Wall

Support Staff:

Jill Fulton

Cindy Washick

First, let me acknowledge the tremendous job done by all of our bus drivers and bus contractors leading to a very smooth and successful opening of school. Congratulations to all for a job well done!



We appreciate the feedback from drivers that has helped us tweak routes to better reflect the actual path the bus travels and adjust stop times. Computers are smart, but never as smart as the person who actually drives the bus on paved roads, through traffic, and around road obstructions and hazards.

Now that we are in mid-October, it is time to start thinking about the change in the weather that will be right around the corner. Our early look at the winter forecast indicates that we may receive more precipitation than the past few years with one major snowstorm possible in the mid-January to mid-February time period. A normal Carroll County winter brings an average of 36" of snow, some freezing rain, and many cold mornings. We should expect the same for this winter season. As drivers you should review your winter weather safe driving practices and be sure that your automatic chains are working properly before the need arises.

As always, our team of transportation supervisors will be out on the roads early each morning when winter weather is expected. We will do our best to make our recommendation on school closures and delays as early as possible with the safety of bus drivers and students always our primary focus. Please keep in mind that Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate in terms of the timing of the precipitation or agreement with weather forecasters. Unfortunately, our job is mostly one of reaction to whatever the forecasts are predicting and what we are able to observe between 3:00 a.m. and 5:45 a.m. Our deadline for announcing school delays or closings continues to be 6:00 a.m.

Finally, Tuesday, October 16, 2018 was recognized as School Bus Driver and Bus Assistant Appreciation Day by the Carroll County Public Schools with the week of October 22- 26, 2018 recognized as National School Bus Safety Week. At the October 10, 2018 Carroll County Public Schools' School Board meeting, the School Board publicly recognized the exceptional job done by our school bus drivers and school bus assistants each and every day by reading a special proclamation issued by Governor Larry Hogan. A copy of this resolution appears later in this newsletter. As you have heard many times, school bus drivers and assistants are the first and last persons representing our school system that students interact with each day. Drivers and assistants can and do make a big difference in a child's outlook on the day ahead and their overall perception about our school system. Congratulations to all of our dedicated professional school bus drivers and assistants!

INTRODUCTION

The Transportation Services Department is pleased to introduce the newest member of our team, Ms. Lauren Rose. Lauren comes to us from Wells Fargo where she worked as an analyst. Lauren is a graduate of Stevenson University with a Bachelor's degree in Applied Math and a Master's degree in Forensic Accounting. She will be responsible for supporting the routing and navigation operations and will assist in transportation benchmarking projects.



WELCOME ABOARD LAUREN



The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

OCTOBER 22 - 26, 2018

- WHEREAS,** It is fitting that Maryland citizens recognize that 7,210 yellow school buses transport daily 631,830 students to Maryland schools, representing 71 percent of the total student population; and
- WHEREAS,** Maryland has 9,027 school bus drivers employed by local school systems that must achieve special training prior to earning their school bus drivers endorsement, issued by the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicle Administration, with an additional six hours of in-service training given during the school year; and
- WHEREAS,** During the year, these fleets cover over 125 million, 514 thousand miles and operate in all types of weather conditions and have an outstanding safety record despite the ever present danger of cars running their safety lights; and
- WHEREAS,** Maryland is pleased to join the nation in recognizing School Bus Safety in all of our 23 counties and Baltimore City and the hard work that our school bus drivers do keeping Maryland students safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 22 - 26, 2018 as SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
the 22nd day of
the month of October and eighteen*



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Robert H. Lathrop
Lt. Governor

John C. Winkler
Secretary of State

To all of our school bus drivers and assistants—thanks for a job well done! As we deal with driver instructors throughout the State of Maryland, we always say that our drivers and assistants are the BEST! Keep up the great work that you do and continue to have safe days ahead.

National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators and school administrators to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety. Designed to promote school bus safety, school districts throughout the country observe ***School Bus Safety Week*** the third week in October each year. Please take some extra time to discuss safety with your students. School bus drivers are held to high professional standards. Drivers and assistants have to be extremely knowledgeable, alert, and mentally and physically healthy. They need to be skilled managers, negotiators, disciplinarians and authority figures. On top of all of these demands, to be a successful driver or assistant, you must be friendly, firm, warm and open while representing yourselves, other drivers, assistants, contractors, and the Transportation Services Department of Carroll County Public Schools.

Learning the proper use of mirrors is vital to the safe operation of a school bus. Mirrors provide maximum visibility when they are free from defects, are properly adjusted and are kept clean. The adjustment of the crossover mirrors is still a major concern on many of the buses. Take time to use the mirror grids painted on the parking lots of the high schools throughout the county.

RAILROAD CROSSING PROCEDURES

- Take Railroad crossings seriously and come to a complete stop.
- Activate the hazard lights at the RRX sign or RRX painting on the road.
- Turn off the master switch.
- Stop 1– to 50 feet from the railroad tracks or behind the white stop line.
- Turn off all noise making devices and quiet the students.
- Open the door and window. STOP, LOOK & LISTEN.
- When safe to do so, cross the tracks.
- Close the door after the front tires cross the tracks.
- Turn off the hazard lights.
- Reactivate master switch.
- Close the window.
- If the railroad signal lights are malfunctioning, call the Transportation Services Department and.....

DO NOT CROSS

TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR STUDENTS

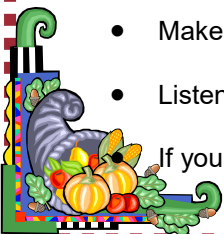
General Attitude and Approach

- Be friendly, but not their friend; your name is Mr., Mrs., Miss _____.
- Be firm, but not tough.
- Be consistent; don't be lax one day and tough the next.
- Treat all students equally; don't have favorites.
- Be fair.
- Show respect, talk with students. Please and Thank You, Good Morning, Good Afternoon.
- Be courteous and not sarcastic; don't ridicule a student or his/her family.
- Always control your temper, Don't discipline out of anger.
- Keep calm; don't yell, once you start yelling your losing the battle.
- Pay attention to your appearance.
- Clearly establish your expectations — what the rules are and the reasons they exist.
- Set a good example; act the part of a person in a responsible position who follows the rules.
- Be honest in what you do and say.
- Remember your sense of humor.
- Don't hold grudges and don't take things personally.
- Watch your language at all times, Don't talk to students in a way you wouldn't want someone talking to your child.

Helpful Tips

- Greet students by name. Say good morning. Smile.
- Show an interest in things that interest them.
- Compliment students on positive behavior.
- Sometimes it pays not to hear things.
- Make students feel that they have a responsibility in ensuring group safety;
- Listen to the students — their suggestions, their complaints, their concerns.

If you make a mistake, admit it.



THE DRIVER'S SEAT



The Vulcan is Born!



How often do people buy new cameras, cell phones and laptop computers in today's world? Technology is changing too rapidly for most of us to keep up with. And when new technology is born, producers of the old technology no longer technically support their devices. We are forced to "upgrade" or have devices that no longer function and no one can repair.

Our Transportation Services Department is in such a position with the Angeltrax camera systems on our buses. New technology has replaced our nine-year old camera systems and has led us to upgrade to a new, HD system. The Vulcan, will provide cameras with HD quality video inside the bus as well as a camera that provides an external view through the windshield. Seventeen new buses were installed with the complete Vulcan camera systems in September. These complete new systems include 5 cameras and an improved DVR. During October and November, an additional 13 buses will receive the complete systems and 51 buses will receive a new DVR along with the external-view windshield camera. Our goal is to have the upgrade completed on all buses over the next 4 years.

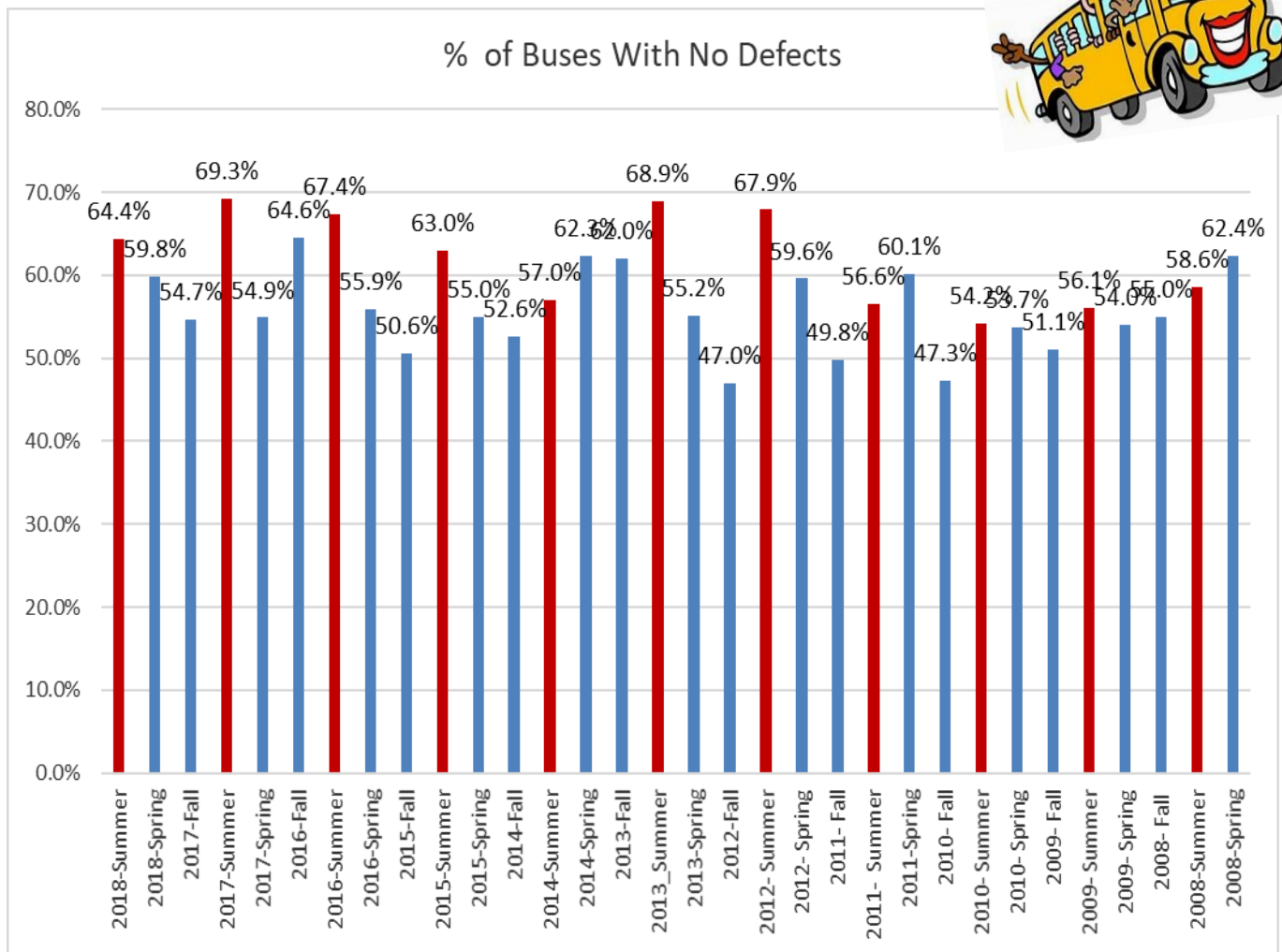
THE DRIVER'S SEAT

August 2018 Bus Inspection

The Summer bus inspection was held August 20-23, 2018. For a summer inspection the weather was probably as good as we have seen in many years; reasonably cool and dry. The results by date and site are highlighted in the chart below.

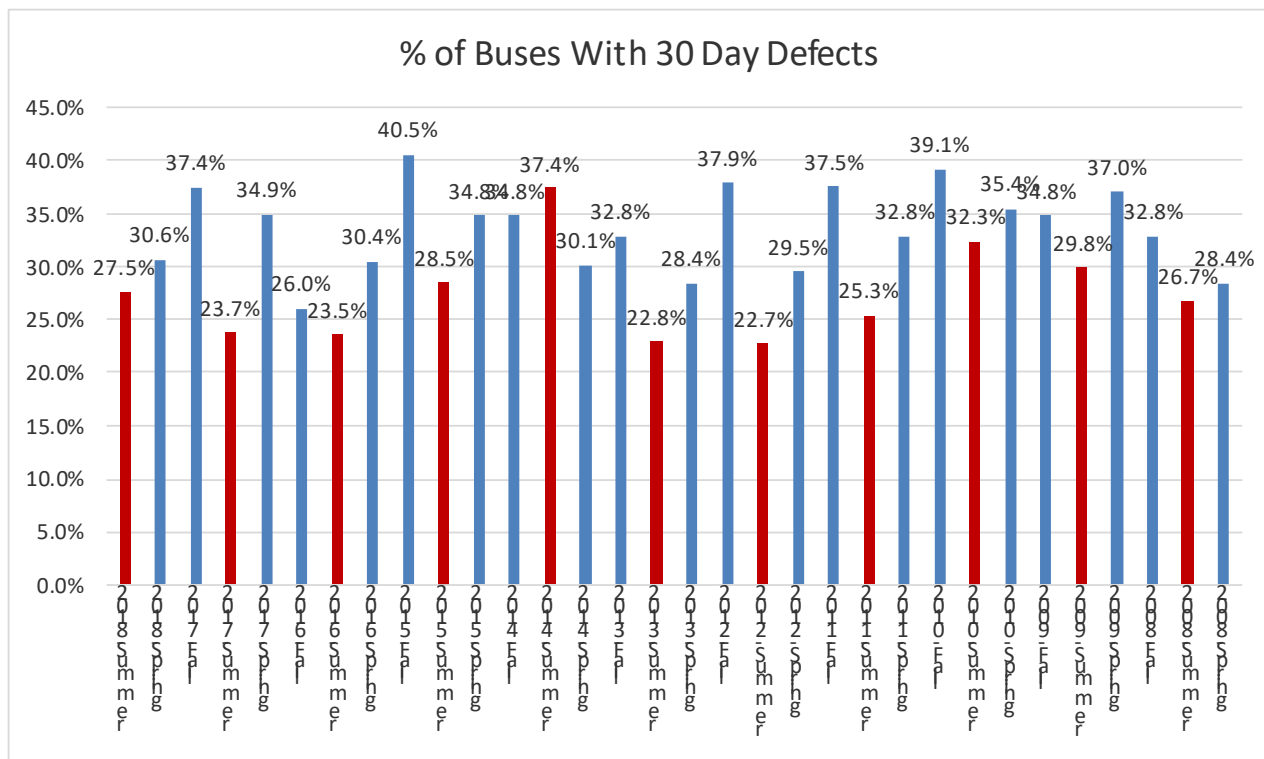
Location-Date	Pass(#)	Pass(%)	30 Day (#)	30 Day(%)	Red Line(#)	Red Line (%)	Total Inspected
FSK 8-20-2018	36	66.7%	13	19.1%	5	9.3%	54
CHS 8-21-2018	57	63.3%	28	31.1%	5	5.6%	90
MVHS 8-22-2018	50	62.5%	21	26.3%	9	11.3%	80
WMHS 8-22-2018	49	66.2%	19	25.7%	6	8.1%	74
Total	192	64.4%	81	27.2%	25	7.0%	298

Highlighted below are the % of buses inspected that passed, had 30 day defects or were redlined during the inspection.

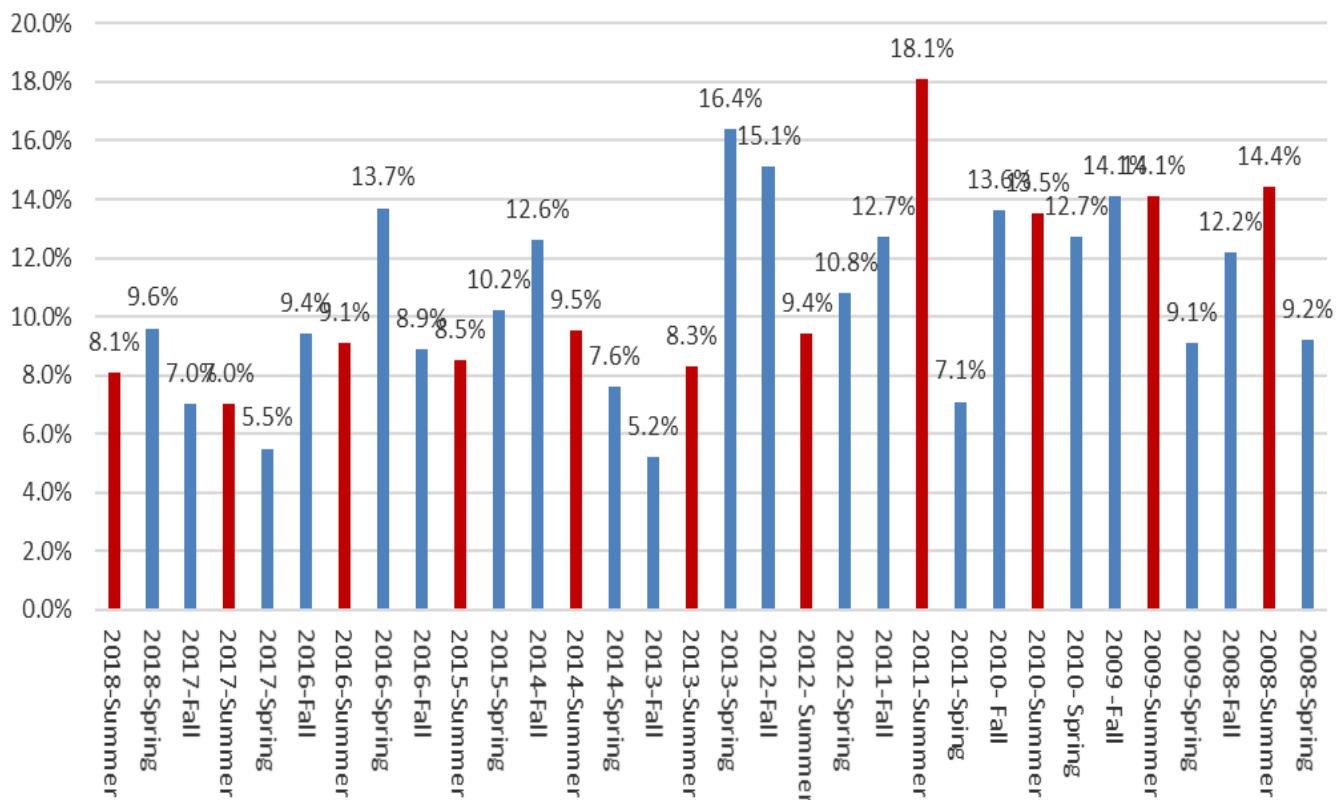


THE DRIVER'S SEAT

% of Buses with 30 Day Defects



% Buses Redlined





NO
PASSING
ZONE

PASSING POLICY

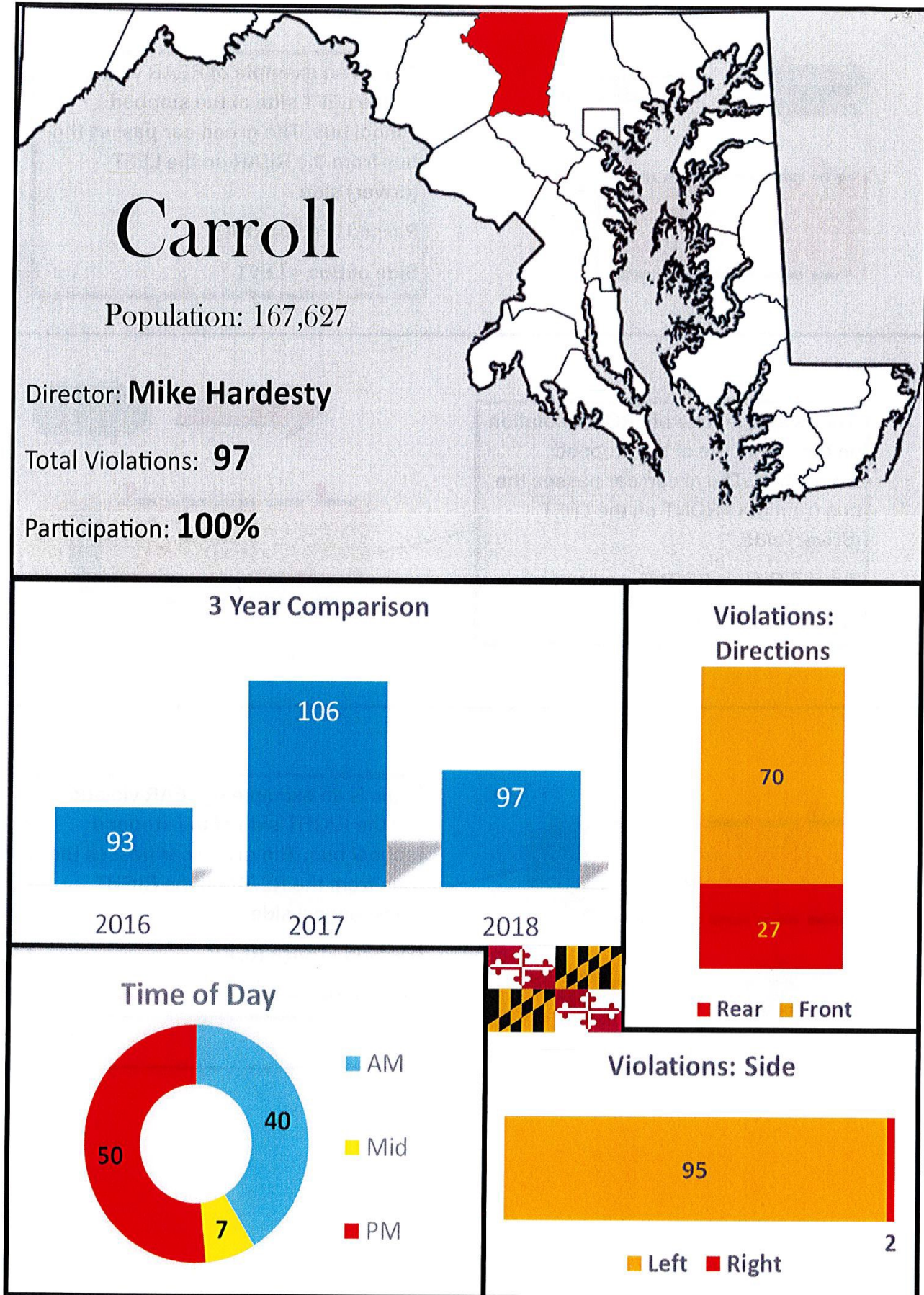
In the school loading zones, driver impatience often manifests itself in the form of buses passing other buses to leave a school site, rather than waiting nose-to-tail and departing in proper order. ***Passing in the loading zone is against Carroll County policy*** and presents a serious accident risk to students and other vehicles. Impatient bus drivers get creative, leaving a gap between their bus and the one in front of it. If the bus ahead is a little slow to load or unload, an impatient bus driver simply passes the slower bus and heads on its way. No matter how many times this is brought up, impatient bus drivers continue to "justify" their unsafe actions. Safety in the school loading zones must be a driver's top priority. This applies to both regular ed. buses and special needs buses.

In remembrance . . .



Mr. Kenneth Strevig of Finksburg, MD passed away on July 11, 2018. For 20 years Mr. Strevig was a driver and contractor for Carroll County Public Schools for more than 40 years. He was an active member of the Carroll County and Maryland State School Bus Contractors Association. Always quick with a friendly greeting and jovial laugh Ken was liked and revered by many. Ken is survived by his loving wife Mary Lee who drives for Louise Glover


2018 FLY BY SURVEY RESULTS





SPECIAL NEEDS TRANSPORTATION

Have you ever wondered what IEP means? We are always referencing the term IEP with regards to special needs students. IEP stands for Individual Educational Program. The IEP is a legal document containing the decisions agreed upon among the school team and parents at an IEP meeting. The IEP defines the resources and services that the student needs to learn and to be successful in school. One of the things that the IEP covers is transportation. The IEP team will determine if a student needs transportation as a related service. Other decisions made at IEP meetings are if specialized equipment is needed or if a one/one is needed. The school system is legally required to provide all services outlined in the IEP. If any changes are needed or requested the IEP team must meet and update the IEP




19 IEP Terms to Know

1. Accommodation
2. Annual goals
3. Assistive technology (AT)
4. Behavior intervention plan (BIP)
5. Disability
6. Due process
7. Extended school year services (ESY)
8. General education curriculum
9. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
10. Least restrictive environment (LRE)
11. Modification
12. Parent report
13. Progress reporting
14. Present level of performance (PLOP, PLP, PLAFF, PLAAF)
15. Standards-based IEP
16. Special education
17. Supplementary aids and services
18. Related services
19. Transition plan

Understood



2018 – 2019 Transportation Services Calendar

October	
18	Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Closed for Pre-K and Prep Students
19	Schools Closed for Students and 10-Month Staff – Professional Meeting Day
26	Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
November	
1	Fall Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Francis Scott Key High
5	Fall bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Century High
6	Schools/Offices Closed – General Election Day
7	Fall bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Manchester Valley High
8	Fall bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Winters Mill High
13	Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal/System-wide; Closed for Pre-K and Prep Students
21	Schools/Offices Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students
22-23	Schools/Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
26	Schools/Offices Re-open
December	
24-28	Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday
31	Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday
January	
1	Schools/Offices Closed – Winter Holiday
2	Schools/Offices Re-open
11	Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
21	Schools/Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
25	Special Education Manifests due in Transportation Services
February	
1	Schools Closed for Students – Professional Meeting Day
18	Schools/Offices Closed – Presidents' Day
March	
8	Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students- Regular Education Route Stop Sheets and Regular Education Route Manifests; Special Education Route Manifests due in Transportation Services
26	Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Manchester Valley High
27	Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Winters Mill High
28	Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Francis Scott Key High
29	Spring Bus Inspection (8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) Century High
April	
9	Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide; Schools Closed for Pre-Kindergarten and Prep Students
19	Schools/Offices Closed – Good Friday
22	Schools/Offices Closed – Easter Monday
23	Schools/Offices Re-open
May	
27	Schools/Offices Closed – Memorial Day
June	
13	Last Day for Pre-Kindergarten Students
14	Last Day for Students; Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes Early Dismissal System-wide

