

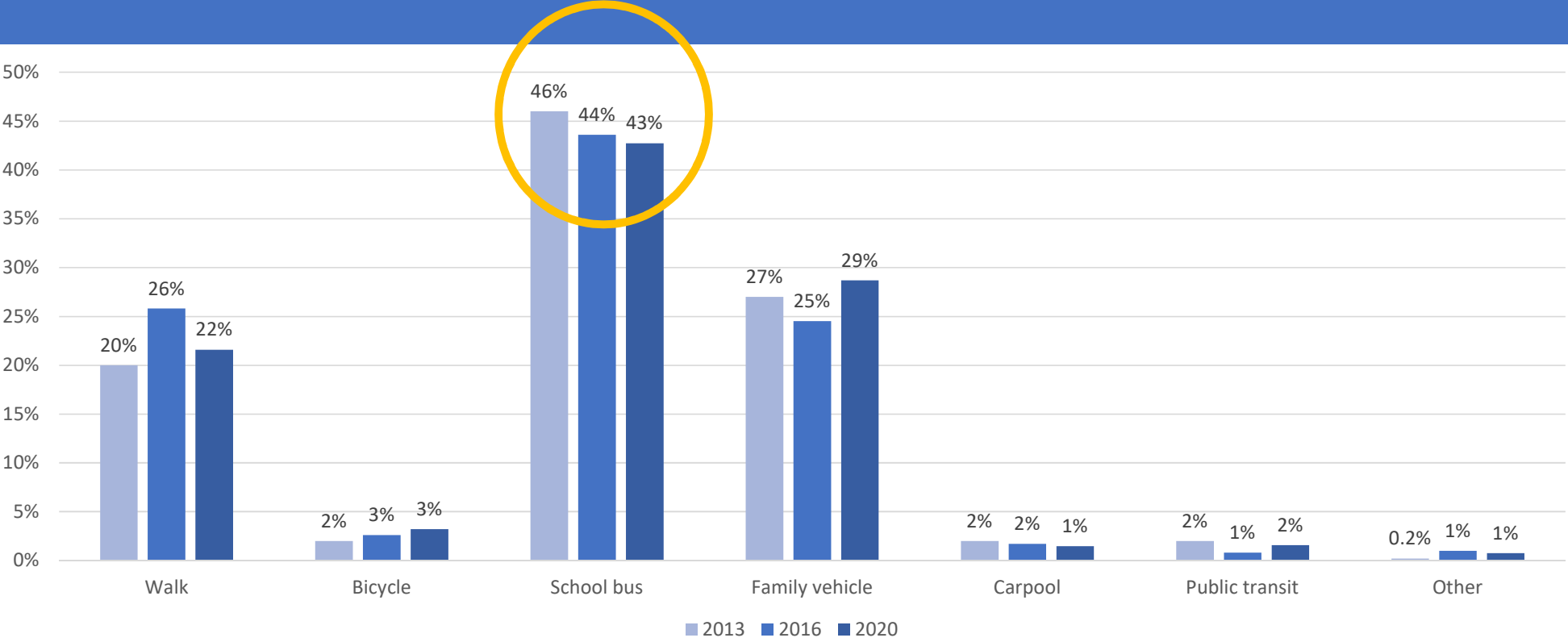


# Transportation Update

APS Return to School Task Force

August 10, 2020

# Typical APS Transportation Profile



# SY19-20 School Bus Ridership

## Students Eligible to be Transported in SY19-20

	Eligible	AM Actual	% Riding	PM Actual	% Riding
<b>General</b>	16,315	10,669	65%	9,729	60%
<b>Specialized</b>	911	668	73%	679	75%
<b>Total</b>	17,226	11,337	66%	10,408	60%

***Note: Actual student counts as reported to VDoE, October 2019***

# APS SY19-20 Bus System Overview



- **200 Buses**
- General Education (GE) =137
- Specialized (SE) = 60, +3MVs
- **159 routes (113 GE+46 SE)**
  - Making 400+ trips to schools each AM & PM
- **169 Drivers\* (GE/SE)**
- **1,000+ bus stops**

**\* At full capacity**

# COVID-19 Impacts on Bus Operations

- With physical spacing and 2nd adult, APS can transport only 11 students per general education bus.
- Only one wheelchair can be accommodated per specialized bus.
- Some bus routes will require multiple trips.
- Students must be screened before boarding the bus; if they do not pass the screening they must return home
- All buses require an AM attendant to screen students
- All drivers and attendants must wear appropriate PPE
- All buses must be thoroughly cleaned 2x per day
- Some drivers/attendants may not return to work



# Strategies to Reduce Demand on Bus

- Expand some ES walk zones within 1-mile policy zone
- Implement consolidated hub stops for option schools/programs
- Increase support for walk and bike access to schools
- Implement traffic strategies around schools
- Identify remote 'park & walk' locations
- Work with Consultant to optimize routing

# Bus Transportation - Staffing & Procurement

## Staffing:

- Driver physicals and CDL renewals underway
- COVID training to be included in beginning of year training
- Additional staff to serve as screeners/attendants needed
- Additional drivers may be needed depending on return to work status of current staff
- Additional staff needed to serve as trainers

## Procurement:

- Thermometers, PPE, and disinfectant sprayers on order



# Bus Transportation - Operations

- Cleaning will occur between AM and PM shifts and end of day.
- Usable seats will be marked on each bus prior to in-school start.
- Bus routing and scheduling will occur when in-school populations are known; multiple runs will be needed in some locations.
- Start/end times may need to be adjusted based on transportation scheduling.
- Special education students with specialized equipment needs will be balanced between in-school days.
- Hub stop implementation is underway for all option schools/programs.
- APS will provide transportation for out of county programs when they resume in person instruction.



# Bus Transportation – Procedures (AM)

- Parents should screen students at home before leaving for bus stop.
- Parents must distance students at the bus stop; line up by grade level with oldest first (oldest students will sit in back and youngest up front).
- Masks are required for all students unless medically exempt.
- Bus attendant will screen students before they board the bus.
- Parents must wait until screening is complete and student is on-board. Students who do not pass screening will be sent back home.
- If students miss their bus, parents must take them to school. They cannot use another stop or route run.
- Bus riders will unload front to back and enter school by a separate entrance from students who are screened at school.
- ES staff will escort bus riders to classrooms.
- ES staff will watch students if drop off is early.

# Bus Transportation – Procedures (PM)

- Staff line up and load students by age (oldest head to back, youngest up front) with spacing.
- Students who miss their bus will need to be picked up by a parent.
- Additional staff may be needed to watch students if bus arrives after teacher work hours.



## Bus Transportation - Specialized

- All specialized buses will have an attendant
- Drivers & attendants to receive COVID-related training during their in-service training period prior to in-person start
- All buses cleaned during AM/PM shift and before next AM shift
- Office of Special Education continuously monitoring enrollment and transportation needs

# Special Education Private Day Schools

- Four schools for which APS provides bus transportation; 31 students
  - Two schools do not yet have a return to school plan
  - One will return virtual
  - One will return in-person/hybrid on Sept. 8
- Transportation waiting for final student data to route
- Ten\* schools to which APS transports students individually; 24 students
  - Office of Special Education working with transportation providers on COVID safety training/protocols

*\*Includes three of the schools for which APS provides a bus*

## Walk/Bike Access

- Expanding 16 ES walk zones (within one mile) that currently are bus eligible.
- 10 locations require additional crossing support; will cover with ACPD crossing guards, County staff and CERT volunteers.
- Map posted in FAQs ([map](#))
- Joint APS/County Walk/Bike Access Work Group formed to provide support for (distanced) walking school buses & bicycle trains and address potential infrastructure enhancements.



## “Drop-off” now Park and Walk

- Park and walk locations to be separated from bus line locations.
- Parent must wait for student’s screening to be completed.
- Joint APS/County Park & Walk Work Group formed to:
  - identify remote park and walk locations;
  - address traffic planning at schools;
  - assist at start of back-to-school with traffic management where applicable.
- School staff will identify parent waiting area during screening process.
- School staff will identify separate entrances for students who were screened at the bus stop and for students being screened at schools.



# Communications

- **Parents:** expanded walk zones, new screening procedures (wait for temp check), 'arrival window' (to stagger arrivals), new park and walk locations/procedures, new multiple entrances, new bus loading procedures, hub stops, 'opt outs' for bus transportation choice
- **Schools:** multiple entrances, bus escorts to relocatable classrooms/building, bus loading procedures
- **Other:** Bike parking protocols, Identify volunteers to lead walk/bike, traffic management



# Questions for Task Force

- Do you understand the procedures presented for the various transportation modes?
- Do you see any potential issues that we have not addressed?

