

SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

NEWS RELEASE

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SCS Transportation Department Prepared for the Start of School

The Surry County Schools Transportation Department spent the summer preparing for the 105 buses that hit the road this morning transporting approximately 5,000 students. The transportation department worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of all students riding school buses this year. These efforts included the routine repair and maintenance of all buses, installation of bus cameras, updates to the Transportation Information Management System (TIMS), as well as the addition of new GPS software to make the navigation of buses more effective and accessible to district officials.

Director of Transportation, Mr. Rodney Hardy shares, “All of the summer work completed is to ensure buses are in tip-top shape to hit the roads and keep students safe. Updates with software programs like TIMS help facilitate routing that improves the overall efficiency of transportation services. Moreover, tools like GPS and TIMS help us evaluate the quality of our services. I am very proud of my department’s 99.47% efficiency rating, and tools like TIMS help us accomplish this.”

Quality of services is very important because transporting young people safely each day to and from home to school is a huge responsibility. This effort not only involves Director Hardy but also includes principals, assistant principals, and school bus drivers. Thus, Surry County Schools holds an annual summer bus driver meeting and an annual summer assistant principal meeting to help ensure continuity of services throughout the district, and are designed to provide all stakeholders the pertinent information they need to effectively plan for the new school year.

Mr. Hardy advised the district is still seeking additional bus drivers. While there are only a few bus driver vacancies currently, which will be filled by qualified substitutes until all positions are permanently filled, Mr. Hardy explains, “Surry County Schools is always seeking highly-qualified drivers to drive bus routes and to substitute. In June, we held a bus driver training class and we have these periodically throughout the school year as well. While it is sometimes a challenge to find drivers to fill vacancies, we are extremely proud of the hard-working men and women who are dedicated bus drivers for the children of Surry County.”

The district's Driver Education program is also a big focus for Mr. Hardy during the summer. According to the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, "The goal of Driver Education is to provide a base for parents to continue the instruction and supervision of their young driver in developing the necessary knowledge, skill, and attitude needed to become a safe driver." These goals include the district's management of Driver Education instructors to facilitate classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction. Summer break is the time when lots of student drivers hit the roads with driver education instructors to get their behind-the-wheel training completed.

Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves stated, "Surry County Schools is fortunate to have a well-trained and professional group of driver education instructors who serve students to ensure they meet and exceed the state of North Carolina's driver education requirements because safety is our number one priority, from teenage drivers to school buses on the road. I am also very proud of our bus drivers. Bus drivers are the first educators students see in the mornings and the last educators they see in the afternoons. The care and professionalism Surry County Schools bus drivers provide students and families on a daily basis is outstanding. Furthermore, Mr. Hardy and transportation mechanics work hard all year to ensure our buses are well-maintained and ready for students each and every day."

Individuals interested in the bus driver training class should check the Surry County Schools website at www.surry.k12.nc.us for updates. Interested individuals may also contact the Surry County Schools Department of Transportation at 336-386-8762.

