



August 13, 2021

Dear Parents of District 163 Students;

AS the start of the 2021-2022 school year is fast approaching, we all know that it will not be the return to "normal" that we all had hoped for. Covid-19 is still a large factor while returning to school.

Starting in May 2020 and throughout the 2020-2021 school year Kickert had to furlough many school bus drivers due to routes not running during remote learning.

Since the drivers had been furloughed so long, many decided not to return. Recruiting new applicants has been very challenging. There are many reasons (Seniors still worried about Covid, Federal Unemployment Stimulus, Strict requirements to become a driver...). Our application numbers are about 30% compared to the same time period during 2019.

The school bus driver shortage is nationwide, and it has also affected Kickert. We are about 15% short of our driver needs.

We have been working with the administration team from District 163 in an effort to mitigate the issues of not having enough drivers. Through routing of stops, we are trying to reduce the number of buses needed for all schools.

The reason for this letter is to ask for your patience during the first 2-3 weeks of school. We will have late buses and may have to double up on routes. Our priority is to provide safe transportation to and from school.

We are hopeful that our driver numbers will increase during September and October.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. O'Sullivan".

Thomas M. O'Sullivan
Vice President, Contracts & Bids
TMO/mm

Kickert School Bus Lines

Proudly Serving the Community Since 1915 • Family Owned & Operated for 100 Consecutive Years
20575 Torrence Avenue • Lynwood, IL 60411 • (708) 758-4740