



August 30, 2021

Jeremy Decker
Superintendent

Dear Windsor Unified School District community,

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We have been working diligently for the return of our transportation services but, unfortunately, the transportation department is still facing ongoing challenges, despite our best efforts to provide transportation services to our students. The transportation department has consolidated routes, utilized office staff to drive buses, and even tried contracting with an outside vendor for services.

In reference to our initial announcement regarding transportation, in the past few months we have had drivers retire, move out of state, and suffer medical issues. This has led to our transportation department being understaffed. While we have continued to advertise for our five vacant bus driver positions, like many other businesses, we are facing a labor shortage. Similarly, the company that we had planned to contract with is unable to provide drivers for the same reasons — a lack of certificated school bus drivers and ongoing COVID-mandated quarantine cases. In addition, the ongoing wave of the COVID-19 Delta variant within Sonoma County has made our efforts to fill our vacant driver positions twice as challenging.

What this means is that, unfortunately, at this time the district is still not able to provide the transportation services that we have worked so hard to restore. We are sincerely sorry for your continued inconvenience, and understand the strain this places on families. We are now back to the drawing board in terms of how to provide transportation services to our district. One solution we are exploring is switching some routes into district vans, allowing us to hire Class C drivers as opposed to Commercial Class B drivers. This plan will allow us to move our certificated school bus drivers back into their routes.

Understandably, this will continue to affect many of our families, as well as the traffic on the Town's roadways. It is our goal to reinstate all transportation services this school year. We will provide updates when available to communicate the time frames needed to restore transportation services.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Decker
Superintendent
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Erica Magana
Director of Transportation
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Brooks Elementary School – Cali Calmécac Language Academy – Mattie Washburn Elementary School
North County Consortium – Windsor High School – Windsor Middle School
Windsor Oaks Academy – North Bay Met Academy