



Why We Need Alternative Student Transportation

Yellow school buses remain an important backbone of student transportation, but they cannot - and do not - serve every student. Alternative Student Transportation offers school districts, administrators, and parents another option – providing more tools for their toolbox.

Schools are facing a growing demand for transportation with fewer resources.

- 80% of school administrators say that school bus driver shortages are a problem.²
- 73% of school administrators say budget shortages have affected their transportation operations, and 21% report their transportation budgets have been cut in the past year.¹
- 50% of school districts struggle to accommodate both general education and students with disabilities on the same routes.³

“When fewer bus drivers must pick up more students, it means longer routes, earlier morning pick-ups, and later drop-offs. These burdensome logistics can increase the likelihood of a student missing school time and diminish their chances of participating in other activities, not to mention the additional burden they can place on parents trying to coordinate work schedules.” (Source: [Economic Policy Institute](#))

The impact of these shortages ripples through the education ecosystem, impacting all involved.

- 88% of school districts report equity gaps in transportation access across student groups.⁴
- 83% of administrators report their staff take time away from core educational duties to help with transportation needs.¹
- 75% of school administrators say that unreliable transportation impacts chronic absenteeism, while 76% link it to chronic tardiness.¹
- More and more parents and caregivers are being forced to find other ways to get their kids to school, with 63% of parents saying they drive their kids to school and 35% reporting missing work due to dropping off their kids.¹

“When transportation for disabled students is unavailable, unreliable, or underserved, academic failures and social isolation for these children are never far behind.” (Source: [Transfinder](#))

A critical solution to many of these issues is the inclusion of Alternative Transportation Services within a District’s services.

- 65% of school administrators support using supplemental, alternative transportation services as part of their transportation toolkit.¹
- Alternative student transportation is often the only solution for **8.84 million students** with disabilities and those experiencing homelessness - this makes up more than 17.5% of the K-12 student population.³

1. Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research & HopSkipDrive, State of School Transportation Report 2025

2. The Hill, “School bus declines leaving strain on parents”

3. Everdriven, “Fueling the Future”

4. Everdriven, “Future of Modern Student Transportation and Safety”