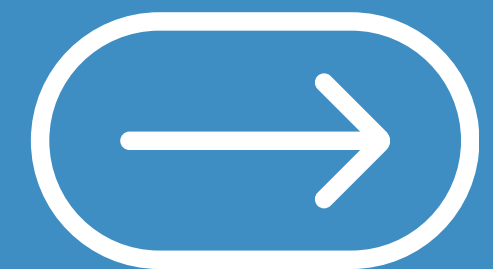


ADVOCATING FOR BETTER BUSING IN DISTRICT 75: A PARENT'S GUIDE

Taking action to ensure reliable and equitable transportation for our children.





FAIR BUSING

WHY IT MATTERS

The Current Situation: Lack of drivers, lack of paraprofessionals, delays, safety and sensitivity training.

Impact on Our Children: Many of our children thrive on routine, and transportation disruptions—whether it's delays, missed pickups, or changes to routes—create unnecessary stress and behavioral challenges for them; leading to exhaustion and reduced ability to focus in the classroom.

Why Parents' Voices Matter: Your voice as a parent matters because it brings urgency, expertise, and accountability to an issue that directly affects your child's future. By speaking up and advocating for change, you are not only fighting for your child but also for the rights of every District 75 student to receive the safe, reliable transportation they deserve.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Key Laws & Policies:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):

- Mandates that students with disabilities receive a **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)**.
- Requires related services, such as transportation, to be provided when necessary for accessing education.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act:

Prohibits discrimination based on disability in federally funded programs, including school transportation.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- Ensures that public transportation is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

New York State Education Law:

- Mandates transportation services for students with disabilities as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- NYC Department of Education Policies:
- Guarantees specialized transportation (e.g., door-to-door service) for eligible students in District 75.
- Provides protocols for parents to report and resolve transportation issues.



1. DOCUMENT ISSUES LIKE DELAYS AND SAFETY CONCERNS.

- CALL OPT CUSTOMER SERVICE THE SAME DAY AT 718-392-8855; IT WILL SAY PRESS 1 FOR ENGLISH, 2 FOR SPANISH, OTHERS STAY ON THE LINE.

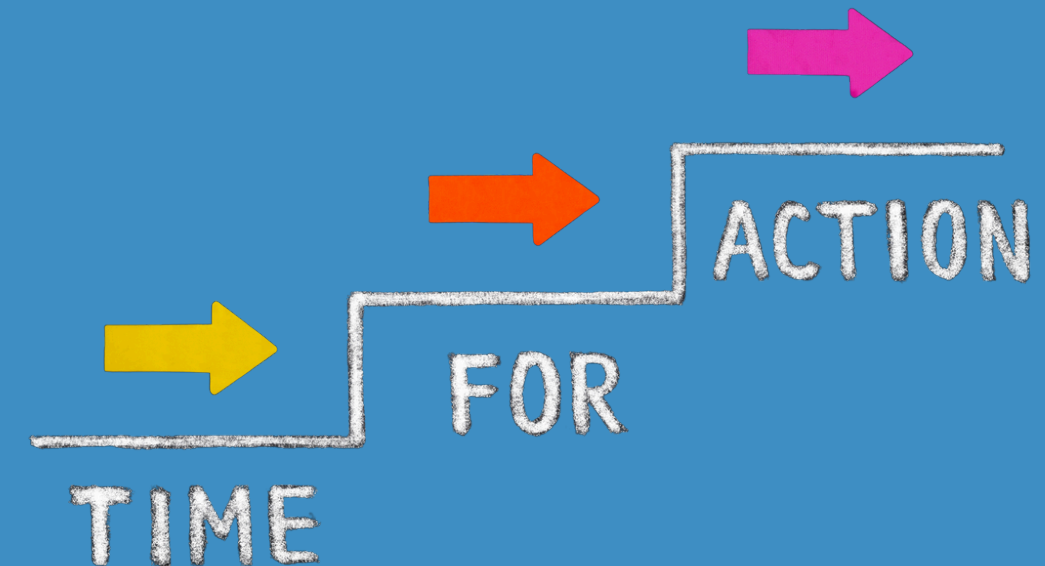
2. COMMUNICATE WITH DOE TRANSPORTATION AND SCHOOL LEADERS.

3. JOIN PARENT GROUPS TO AMPLIFY VOICES.

- **CCD75 BUSING COMMITTEE**
 - D75COUNCIL@SCHOOLS.NYC.GOV
- **CCSE BUSING SUBCOMMITTEE**
 - CCSE@SCHOOLS.NYC.GOV
- **PIST- PARENTS TO IMPROVE STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**
 - [HTTPS://WWW.PISTNYC.ORG/](https://www.pistnyc.org/)

4. ENGAGE REPRESENTATIVES BY CONTACTING DISTRICT LEADERS.

STEPS TO TAKE ACTION



BUSING ISSUES :

- NO SHOW BUS
- NO ROUTE ASSIGNED
- EARLY PICK UP FROM SCHOOL
- LACK OF CLIMATE CONTROL
- COMPLAINTS AGAINST DRIVER/ATTENDANT/PARA
- RIDESHARE ACCESS
- MEDICAL CODES
- LONG TRAVEL TIME
- REIMBURSEMENT
- ALTERNATIVE DROP OFF.



Advocacy Tools

Sample Email Template:

Subject: Urgent Request for Legislative Support to Address Busing Issues in District 75

Dear [Legislator's Name],

I am writing to you as a parent of a child in District 75, a community that serves students with significant special needs. Transportation is a critical component of their education, ensuring that they arrive at school safely, on time, and ready to learn. Unfortunately, the current busing system in NYC is failing our children, causing unnecessary stress and disruption to their lives and education.

Over the past [insert timeframe], we have experienced [insert specific examples, e.g., frequent delays, long ride times, safety issues]. These challenges are not just inconveniences—they directly impact the mental and physical well-being of our students, many of whom thrive on consistency and routine.

I urge you to take immediate action to address these issues by:

- Allocating Resources: Advocate for increased funding to improve transportation services for special education students.
- Implementing Oversight: Establish stricter regulations and accountability measures for transportation providers.
- Enhancing Communication: Develop a transparent communication system to keep parents informed in real-time.

As a legislator representing our community, your support can make a profound difference in ensuring that our children have equitable access to education. I kindly request a meeting to discuss this matter further and explore actionable solutions. Thank you for your time and commitment to serving the needs of our most vulnerable students. I am hopeful that with your leadership, we can create a safer, more reliable busing system for all District 75 families.

I look forward to your response and am happy to provide additional details or testimonials from other parents. Please feel free to contact me at [your phone number] or [your email address]. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
[Your Full Name]



CITY LEVEL CONTACTS



NYC Council Members

- Identify your local City Council Member who represents your district. They often handle local school and transportation issues. Use the [NYC Council website](#) to find your representative.
- The Education Committee Chair in the City Council:
 - Chair is Rita Joseph, who focuses on education policies.
 - Email: district40@council.nyc.gov
 - Phone: (718) 287-8762
 - She leads education-related initiatives and can be a key advocate for systemic transportation changes.

NYC Public Advocate

- The Public Advocate acts as a voice for citizens and monitors issues like education and transportation.
- Current Public Advocate: Jumaane Williams ([Contact](#)).
- Email: jwilliams@pubadvocate.nyc.gov
- Phone: (212) 669-7250
- Focuses on oversight and holding agencies accountable, including the Department of Education (DOE).

NYC Department of Education (DOE)

- Contact the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) to address systemic issues. While they are not legislators, they play a critical role in managing busing services.
 - Contact the OPT. Phone: (718) 392-8855

NYC Schools Chancellor

- Melissa Aviles
 - NYC Department of Education, Office of the Chancellor.
 - Email: chancellor@schools.nyc.gov
 - Address: Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007.



STATE & FEDERAL LEVEL CONTACTS



New York State Senators and Assembly Members

- Find your representatives in the New York State Senate and State Assembly, especially those serving on the education committees:
 - Use the NYS Senate (<https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>) and NYS Assembly (<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>) websites to locate your legislators.

Chairs of the Education Committees in Albany

- State Senate Education Committee Chair:
 - Shelley Mayer Email: smayer@nysenate.gov
 - Phone: (518) 455-2031
- State Assembly Education Committee Chair:
 - Michael Benedetto Email: benedettom@nyassembly.gov
 - Phone: (518) 455-5296
 -

New York State Department of Education (NYSED)

- Office of Special Education: Handles compliance with IDEA and transportation as a related service.
 - Email: speced@nysed.gov
 - Phone: (518) 473-2878

U.S. Senators for New York

Senator Chuck Schumer ([Contact](#))
<https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/message-chuck>
Phone: [\(212\) 486-4430](tel:(212)486-4430)

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand ([Contact](#))

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/>
Phone: (212) 688-6262.

Your U.S. Congressional Representative

- **Reach out for federal oversight or advocacy related to IDEA compliance.**

Reach out to your Congressional Representative, particularly if they serve on committees related to education, transportation, or disability rights. Use the House of Representatives website to identify them.
<https://www.house.gov/representatives>



TALKING POINTS

Impact on Students and Families

- **Consistency is Key:** Many District 75 students rely on routine, and transportation delays or disruptions can cause significant anxiety and behavioral challenges.
- **Long Commutes:** Some students endure hours-long rides, leading to fatigue, reduced classroom engagement, and health concerns.
- **Safety Concerns:** Reports of unsupervised buses, lack of proper safety measures, and insufficiently trained staff are alarming.

Emotional Toll

- **Stress on Families:** Parents are left juggling work commitments and personal responsibilities due to unreliable transportation.
- **Impact on Students:** Missing school or arriving late disrupts learning and social development, especially for students with specialized needs.

Systemic Issues

- **Lack of Accountability:** Current oversight of transportation providers is inadequate, allowing repeated failures without consequences.
- **Communication Breakdowns:** Parents often lack timely updates on delays or route changes, leaving them frustrated and uninformed.
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Insufficient resources and outdated technology hinder the efficiency of the transportation system.

Legal and Policy Violations

- **Violation of IDEA:** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) guarantees transportation as a related service, essential for access to education. Delays and missed pickups violate this right.
- **Unmet IEP Requirements:** Many Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) specify door-to-door transportation, which isn't always provided.

Solutions and Demands

- **Improved Funding:** Advocate for increased resources to upgrade buses, train staff, and implement advanced routing technologies.
- **Stronger Oversight:** Enforce stricter accountability measures for transportation providers to ensure quality service.
- **Transparent Communication:** Develop real-time tracking and notification systems to keep parents informed about delays and changes.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Include parents, educators, and advocates in transportation policy discussions.

RESOURCES

CCD75

d75council@schools.nyc.gov

CCD75BusingIssues@gmail.com

CCSE

Busing Sub Committee

ccse@schools.nyc.gov

PIST

pistnyc@gmail.com

631.743.6296

<https://www.pistnyc.org/resources/bus-problems>

For all public school students:

Community Ed. Council of their school's district number

from cec1@schools.nyc.gov to cec32@schools.nyc.gov

in English at tinyurl.com/PISTAdvice and in Spanish at tinyurl.com/PISTConsejo



SCHOOL BUS BILL OF RIGHTS: [in English at tinyurl.com/PISTAdvice](https://tinyurl.com/PISTAdvice) and in [Spanish at tinyurl.com/PISTConsejo](https://tinyurl.com/PISTConsejo)

- School age bus company numbers and emails are listed at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/bus-companies-for-school-age-children>
- Pre school and EI bus company numbers and emails are at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/pre-k-and-early-intervention-bus-companies>

Please take the CCD75 Busing Survey. Let us know your experiences with the Office of Pupil transportation during the school year.

Use this link to access the survey here:
<https://forms.gle/7psB6nXE37szwvfp9>

Additional Busing Resources

<https://www.ccd75.org/busing>

TAKE ACTION

- Join parent groups.
- Attend an upcoming meeting.
- Lobby your local legislators
- Sign the petition below.



*Advocating for Safe and Reliable
Transportation for District 75 Students*

WWW.CCD75.ORG for more information



CALL TO ACTION



Begin by contacting your local NYC Council Member and State Legislators. They are typically the most accessible and can escalate your concerns to city and state agencies.

ADVOCACY AND OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATIONS

THESE ORGANIZATIONS CAN AMPLIFY YOUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

1. DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK (DRNY)

- PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION (CONTACT)
- OFFERS LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.
- EMAIL: MAIL@DRNY.ORG
- PHONE: (518) 432-7861

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK

- PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS FACING EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION (CONTACT).
- MAIL: INFO@ADVOCATESFORCHILDREN.ORG
- PHONE: (866) 427-6033