

Southwest Local School District: High School Busing Cost Projection
September 21, 2017

1. High school busing was last offered in the 2010-2011 school year. We are in the 7th school year with no high school busing. 8 of 22 Hamilton County school districts offer high school busing. Those districts are Indian Hill, Mariemont, Madeira, Sycamore, Forest Hills, Loveland, Princeton, and St Bernard.
2. Southwest High school busing was cut in the spring of 2011 as part of a 2.1-million dollar deficit in the district budget. Also cut were 18 teaching positions, 9 aide positions, 7 custodian positions, and some coaching and supplemental positions. Building budgets were also cut, Hooven elementary was closed and Pay to Play for Athletics was instituted. The district also, in a cost savings measure, entered into a shared arrangement with Ross Schools for bus maintenance.
3. Transportation funds from the state are being reduced by 25% this year and another 50% next year. Regardless of high school busing, additional buses and therefore additional transportation expense may be added as the growth continues in the upcoming years.
4. In the 2010-2011 school year 428 students of the 1020 high school students rode the bus. This represents 42% of the students. Based on 42% and current enrollment of 1102 students, the projected ridership now would be 462 students.
5. The average annual cost over the next 5 years for one bus route (salary, benefits, maintenance, gas and insurance) is \$ 46,079. We would need to lease buses to add to our fleet in order to add any new routes. The average cost to lease to own a bus over a 5-year period is \$20,500. Any new bus added would cost, on average, a total of \$66,579 annually over the next 5 years.
6. A minimum of one bus would be needed to transport to parochial high schools within 30 minutes of our high school at a cost of \$66,579. This same bus may then need to transport to elementary parochial schools within 30 minutes of our elementary school.
7. The seating capacity on each bus is 48. 10 buses minimum would be needed to transport 462 high school students on their own bus at the same time as the junior school routes. See Option A on next page for costs on this plan.
8. There are various levels of service (pod stops or double runs), ridership guidelines (ride HS only or with JS students), distance requirements (mile radius of school determines eligibility to ride) and school start and end times (dictates bus routing for each school in the district.) See options B-G for cost projections on these optional service levels.

	Annual Expense First 5 years Includes Bus Leases	Annual Expense After 5 years No Bus Leases
A. Regular Bus Routes OR Pod Bus Stop Routes (11 Buses) Pod stops are stops only in general areas of the community. Students would still have to get to the pod stop and capacity needs would be unchanged. If High School started first PODS would be more of a cost savings.	\$732,369	\$506,869
B. Regular Bus Routes or Pod Bus Stop Routes but restrict Riders to those outside of 2 miles radius. (9 Buses)	\$599,211	\$414,711
C. Regular Bus Routes or Pod Stops: Double Runs (6 Buses) Outlying students will be picked up first and dropped at school in the AM. Then buses pick up students closer to the school and drop off. The reverse occurs in the PM.	\$399,474	\$276,474
D. Regular Bus Routes WITH JUNIOR SCHOOL (6 Buses) Based on the current JS ridership (no growth).	\$399,474	\$276,474
E. Restrict Riders to those outside of 2 miles radius and do double runs (5 buses).	\$332,895	\$230,395
F. Adjust School Times, AM Regular Runs and 2-Mile Eligibility Req. (3-4 buses) PM: Double Runs (Pod or Regular), 2-Mile Elig Req. Add 2-3 Buses + Parochial. Also, some extra hours for current drivers may be needed, could be up to an estimated \$40,000 with 3 buses or \$20,000 with 4 buses.		
	3 Buses	\$239,737
	4 Buses	\$286,316

CURRENT

	Diamond Oaks	Junior School	High School	Crosby Elem	Miamitown Elem	Harrison Elem/St. Johns	Whitewater Valley Elem
SCHOOL TIMES	X	7:25- 2:25	7:58- 2:50	8:30-3	8:30-3	9-3:30	8:55-3:25

PROPOSED

SCHOOL TIMES	X	7:20- 2:25	8:10- 3:10	8:55- 3:25	8:55-3:25	9:25- 3:55	9:20-3:50
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G. Restrict Riders to outside 5-mile radius (4 Buses) Double runs not practical.	\$266,316	\$184,316
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