

Farmington Central CUSD #265

Preparing Locally, Excelling Globally, to Build a Stronger Community

Dr. John Asplund, Superintendent

Dear District 265 Community Member:

As you are most certainly aware, the General Assembly and Governor have passed a 12 month education budget. This is definitely good news! We now are able to plan for our yearly revenue from the state, which was guaranteed to be no less than last year.

While we are most definitely grateful that we can make definitive plans for the 2016-2017 school year, we are still very much concerned about how the state is funding our transportation program. **Over the last few years, the state has reduced our revenue by over one million dollars.** We have been informed that the state will continue to send a reduced amount of transportation revenue to school districts for this current year. This means that the district will see approximately \$250,000 less in transportation revenue than would be expected. As a result, we have been forced to cut costs where possible.

In the winter, the board of education made the difficult decision to move away from outsourcing all our transportation services. While we still contract with Illinois Central School Bus to provide drivers for our buses, the district now leases its own fleet of buses. On its face, it would appear that this would increase district costs, but **we are projecting a savings of approximately \$130,000 in transportation costs for the 2016-2017 school year.** Plus, our students will be riding to and from school in brand new buses. This will provide greater comfort and increased safety for our students.

The district has also reduced the number of bus routes. This may mean that some bus routes may be as much as 15 minutes longer each day; although we are doing everything we can to keep routes to a maximum time of 1 hour. This also means that Junior High and High School students who live in Farmington will not be transported home right after school. Those students will instead report to Room 625 in the High School, where they will wait for approximately 25 minutes for the Farmington elementary routes to return to the school to pick up these students and take them home. For a complete list of transportation changes, please see the bulleted list on the second page of this letter.

If you have specific questions about your child's route, representatives from Illinois Central School Bus will be available at registration (Tuesday, July 26 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM) and at District Open House (Monday, August 15 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM).

We look forward to another great school year!



John Asplund
Superintendent

Transportation Changes for 2016-2017

Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, changes have been made in student transportation in order to reduce costs. Because of these changes, it is important for all parents, guardians, and in home childcare providers to know the following changes:

- During Student Registration on July 26, 2016 from 7:00 AM- 7:00 PM in the FCHS Cafeteria, only students using school transportation need to fill out the bus transportation form.
- Only Pre-K through 1st grade students will have door-to-door service. Students in grades 2nd through 12th grade will be picked up at their designated bus stop. Students who live in the country and on highways will still receive door-to-door service.
- At this time, all Farmington and Yates City routes have been changed to K-5 and 6-12 routes.
- Most Hanna City routes have been changed to K-5 and 6-12 routes.
- An older sibling needing to ride a Pre-K-5 bus route for childcare purposes must be designated on the transportation request form during student registration in order for students to be routed and assigned to the appropriate bus.
- Farmington routes will run on two dismissals. Students in grades Pre-K through 5th (and siblings that provide childcare) will board buses after school to go home. Students in grade 6th through 12th grades will report to room 625, across from the high school office after school. Students in 6th through 12th grade will be dismissed once the earlier routes return to the school for student pick-up.
- Your bus route, driver, and pick-up/drop-off times may be different from the 2015-2016 school year. The changes will be available to parents and guardians during the **District Wide Open House on August 15, 2016 from 6:00-7:30 PM.**
- Notes requesting change in transportation for students Pre-K through 12th grades, such as riding home with friends/family, must come to the **building office no later than 3:45 PM on the day before the requested change** and may be denied based on seat availability.

Thank you for your cooperation as we look forward to an exciting new school year.