

## Superintendent Provost's Statement on School Bus Matters

August 28, 2025

Dear HWRSD School Community:

It has been such a joy to welcome staff and students back for the new school year. We enter the new school year with a renewed commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where all students can learn and grow.

One of the most significant changes the new year brings is the new school schedule and transportation model. I am happy to report that there were no delays or alerts due to driver shortages. However, as this was the first day of school, our process was not as efficient as it will normally be, and we learned some lessons that we can use to improve the process.

While most Green Meadows buses ran on time, we experienced some traffic delays in Wilbraham in both the morning and the afternoon. To address the observed traffic snarls, we will be adjusting our procedures. In the immediate term, our School Resource Officer will direct traffic on Stony Hill Road, allowing buses to exit the parking lot without being blocked in by traffic. **It would help the situation tremendously if motorists would yield to buses attempting to leave the middle school or enter Stony Hill Elementary School.**

We will also expand the bus unloading zone at WMS so that 6 buses can empty simultaneously. To expedite the process at MRHS, student drivers are asked to enter the parking lot via the road that runs by the athletic complex. This will help to separate the student drivers from buses and families waiting to drop off. Families dropping off should access the student drop-off area by the road that runs around the back of the school. **Families should use the entire curb, allowing several cars to unload or pick up passengers simultaneously.** As a reminder, the lane closest to the school is for bus traffic only. Private vehicles are to use the second lane during drop off and pickup. At dismissal, buses will be given priority for loading students and exiting the property.

I hope that these adjustments along with the greater familiarity everyone has with the system will allow for a smoother flow of traffic tomorrow. Ultimately, if the new system proves to be more reliable than the previous one, I hope that more families will consider using our student transportation services which would further relieve traffic congestion at the schools, allowing the system to work more efficiently. I will continue to closely monitor the situation and make further adjustments to improve the reliability and efficiency of student transportation services in our district.

Sincerely,

John A. Provost, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools