



# **COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE TRANSPORTATION 3/22/2024**



**CONROE ISD  
TRANSPORTATION**



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TRANSPORTATION**

# OUR STORY

The Transportation Department values safety, efficiency, and excellence in transporting students. We prioritize the well-being of students and employees while aiming to enhance operations and maintain community trust.

We do this while operating out of four transportation centers that are located throughout the district.

- **Conroe Transportation Center**
- **Caney Creek Transportation Center**
- **Oak Ridge Transportation Center**
- **The Woodlands Transportation Center**







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# CONROE TRANSPORTATION CENTER

The Conroe Transportation Center is located at 108 Gladstell Street in Conroe. The center services the Conroe Feeder Zone and is home to our Routing and Training Departments. There are 217 employees that work out of this center:

- **99 Drivers (Regular, Standby, MPV and Special Needs)**
- **36 Monitors (Standby and Special Needs)**
- **9 Trainers**
- **6 Routers**
- **7 Technicians**
- **9 Specialists (Data, Field Trip, Operations, Parts, Payroll, Video Tech)**
- **10 Part-time (Call Center and Drivers)**
- **33 Trainees**
- **8 Admin**







# CANEY CREEK TRANSPORTATION CENTER

The Caney Creek Transportation Center is located at 13735 Grangerland Road in Conroe. The center services the Caney Creek Feeder. There are 114 employees that work out of this center:



- **72 Drivers (Regular and Special Needs)**
- **26 Monitors (Regular and Special Needs)**
- **3 Technicians**
- **5 Specialist (Operations, Parts and Video Tech)**
- **5 Part-time (Call Center and Drivers)**
- **3 Admin**





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# OAK RIDGE

## TRANSPORTATION CENTER

The Oak Ridge Transportation Center is located at 27110 Geffert Wright Road in Oak Ridge North. The center services the Grand Oaks and Oak Ridge Feeder Zones. There are 160 employees that work out of this center:

- **97 Drivers (Regular and Special Needs)**
- **30 Monitors (Regular and Special Needs)**
- **4 Technicians**
- **5 Specialists (Operations, Parts & Video Tech)**
- **9 Part-time (Call Center and Drivers)**
- **5 Admin**







# THE WOODLANDS TRANSPORTATION CENTER

The Woodlands Transportation Center is located at 12208 Sawmill in The Woodlands. The center services the College Park and Woodlands Feeder Zones. There are 166 employees that work out of this center:



- **116 Drivers (Regular and Special Needs)**
- **27 Monitors (Regular and Special Needs)**
- **6 Technicians**
- **4 Specialists (Operations & Video Tech)**
- **9 Part-time (Call Center and Drivers)**
- **4 Admin**

# SERVICES WE PROVIDE

The Conroe ISD Transportation department is one of the largest in the state. On a typical school day, we transport about 40,000 students.

Conroe ISD school buses:

- Carry approximately 40,000 students daily
- Cover over 7,130,000 miles annually
- Complete more than 2,000 runs between campuses each day
- Support approximately 8,000 field trips yearly

Every team member in the Transportation department plays a crucial role in an organization dedicated to achieving excellence.



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# ROUTES BY CENTER

At present, there are 384 daily routes operating district-wide.

- The Woodlands 116
- Conroe 101
- Oak Ridge 98
- Caney Creek 69

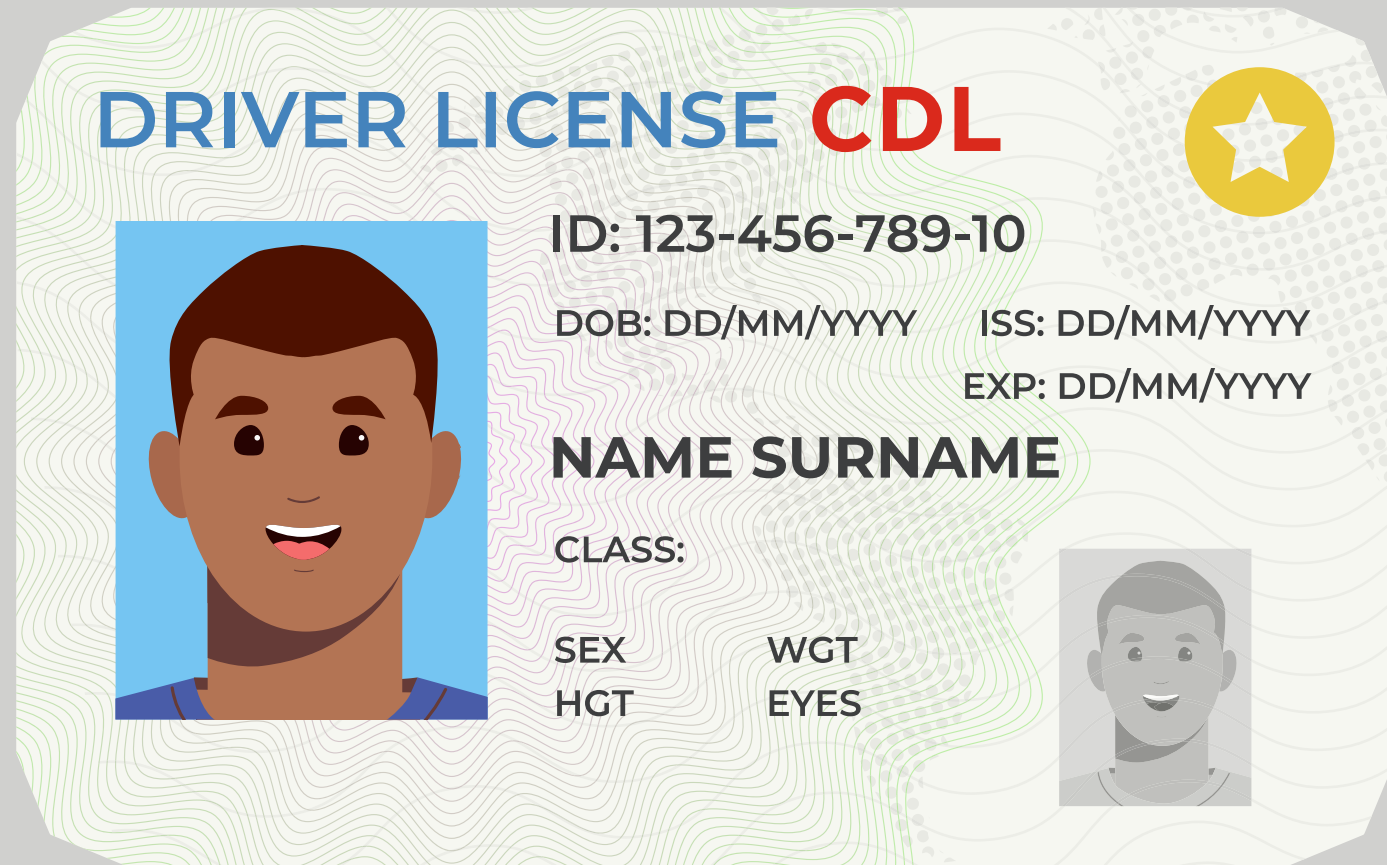
Across the district, there are only 11 open routes, evenly spread among the centers.

Summary	CTC	ETC	WTC	OTC	TOTAL
Routes (Gen & SPED)	96	68	112	96	372
MVP (Multi-Purpose vehicle)	5	1	4	2	12
Total	101	69	116	98	384
Open Routes	4	2	2	3	11





# HOW TO BECOME A BUS DRIVER



## Obtaining your CDL

A Commercial Driver License (CDL) allows individuals to operate commercial vehicles for transporting passengers or property. It is a professional license with more testing requirements than other licenses.





# CDL REQUIREMENTS

To obtain a CDL in Texas for a school bus, the first step is to have your motor vehicle registration checked by the potential employer to determine eligibility based on the point system.

Having 10 points from offenses like DWLI, DWI or DWU or renders one ineligible to drive a school bus in Texas.







# TO GET A CDL...

Set an appointment at DPS and bring required documents:

- Proof of residency
- Birth certificate
- Social security card, U.S. Citizenship or lawful presence is needed
- Medical Examiner's Certificate
- DOT drug screening

Study for five written tests:

- Texas Commercial Rules
- General Knowledge
- Air Brakes
- Passenger \*
- School Bus \*

\* To add endorsements for a school bus to your license, you need to pass the Passenger and School bus written tests.

The tests must be taken in a specific order and are necessary for commercial vehicles.

*After completing these steps, you will receive your CDL Permit with the necessary endorsements, making you eligible for hiring and training.*





# CDL CONTINUED...

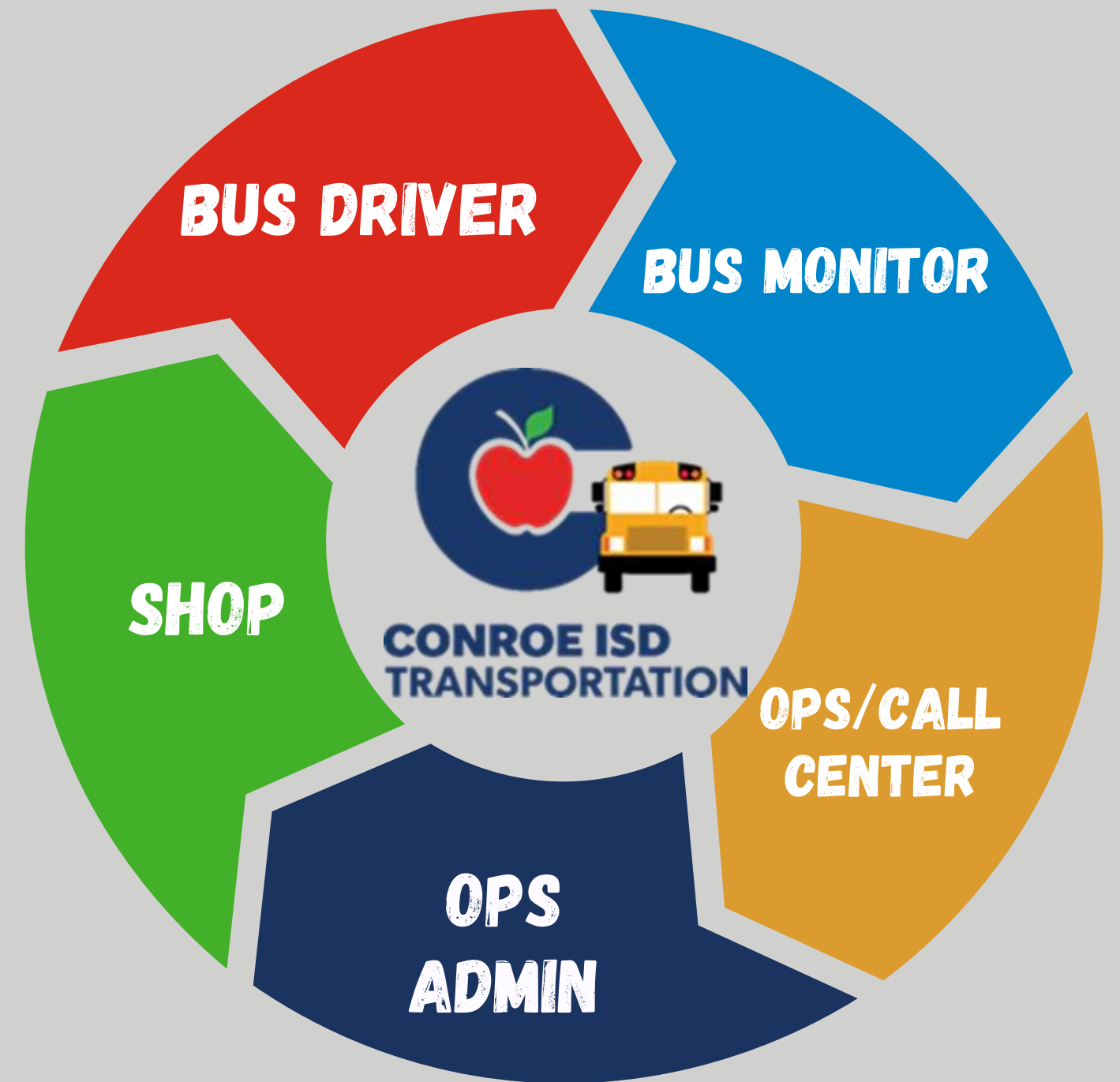
After obtaining your Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP), you will undergo training with a Cisd trainer to learn the pre-trip inspection of the school bus, including understanding all components of the bus and how they function.

Training covers brake tests, driving skills like parking and backing, and typically lasts 4-6 weeks.

Additionally, you will undergo Entry Level Driver's Training (ELDT) before scheduling your driving test with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to obtain your Commercial Driver's License (CDL).



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CONROE ISD TRANSPORTATION





# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BUS DRIVER/MONITOR



• Pre-Trip using ZonarEvir (wand).  
**SAFETY FIRST!**



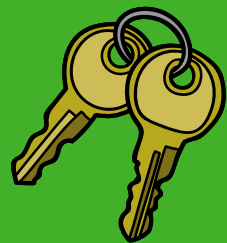
Transporting students to school safely every morning!



Bus drivers safely transport students home from school and check the bus after each run to ensure no students are left behind.

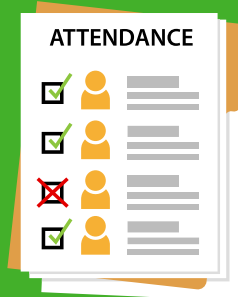
1

Clock in 5:30 a.m., pick up route book, tablet & keys.



2

3



Attendance is key to our students, sets a good start to a great day!

4

5

Drive safely, watch for traffic and construction, and be prepared for emergencies. Monitors assist with students.

6

7

Upon finishing their routes, late runs, and tutorials around 7:00 p.m., bus drivers return to the center to post-trip, clean their buses, and turn in keys, books, and tablets.







# OTHER/EXTRA ASSIGNMENTS

Other assignments or extra assignments a driver/monitor might have throughout the day are:

- Field Trips
- Mid Days
- Shuttles
- Tutorials
- Late Runs
- **Teacher Kid (TK Shuttles)**





# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OPERATIONS TEAM



1

AM ops clocks in 4:30 a.m., ensures route coverage and drives as needed.

2

Answers radio, phone & walk-in traffic to office, assist coaches with trips.

3

As mid & PM ops arrive they assist in route coverage and office coverage.

4

OPS/call center are key instruments in the day to day operations of our transportation

5

Help drivers, monitors and additional duties. Update route changes, notify drivers. Other duties as assigned.

6

Drive as needed, handling radio & phone communications. Notify workshop & supervisors promptly in emergencies or mechanical failures.

7

They assist drivers and monitors upon their return to the center. Operational staff stay at the center until the last bus arrives, typically around 7-7:30 p.m.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SHOP/VIDEO TECH



1

Clock in as early as 5:00 a.m. Address bus issues, start buses, replace lights, etc.

2

Road calls, breakdowns, collisions  
Drive as needed.

3

Pull and watch videos, archive for campus, email campus admin and supervisor. Replace video equipment as need.

4

Shop/Video Tech our wheels wouldn't spin and our videos wouldn't roll.

5

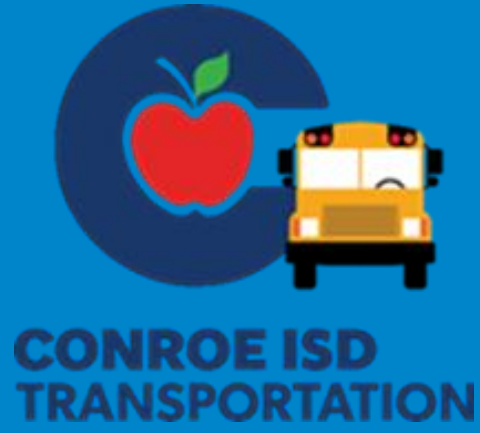
Perform bus repairs, inspections, and preventive maintenance. Use video technology to store and retrieve videos for campus and transportation administration.

6

Video Techs drive when necessary and replace videos retrieved from the previous day.

7

The Shop drives, responds to emergency and roadside calls, and ensure buses are cleared and everything is securely locked by 7-7:30 p.m.



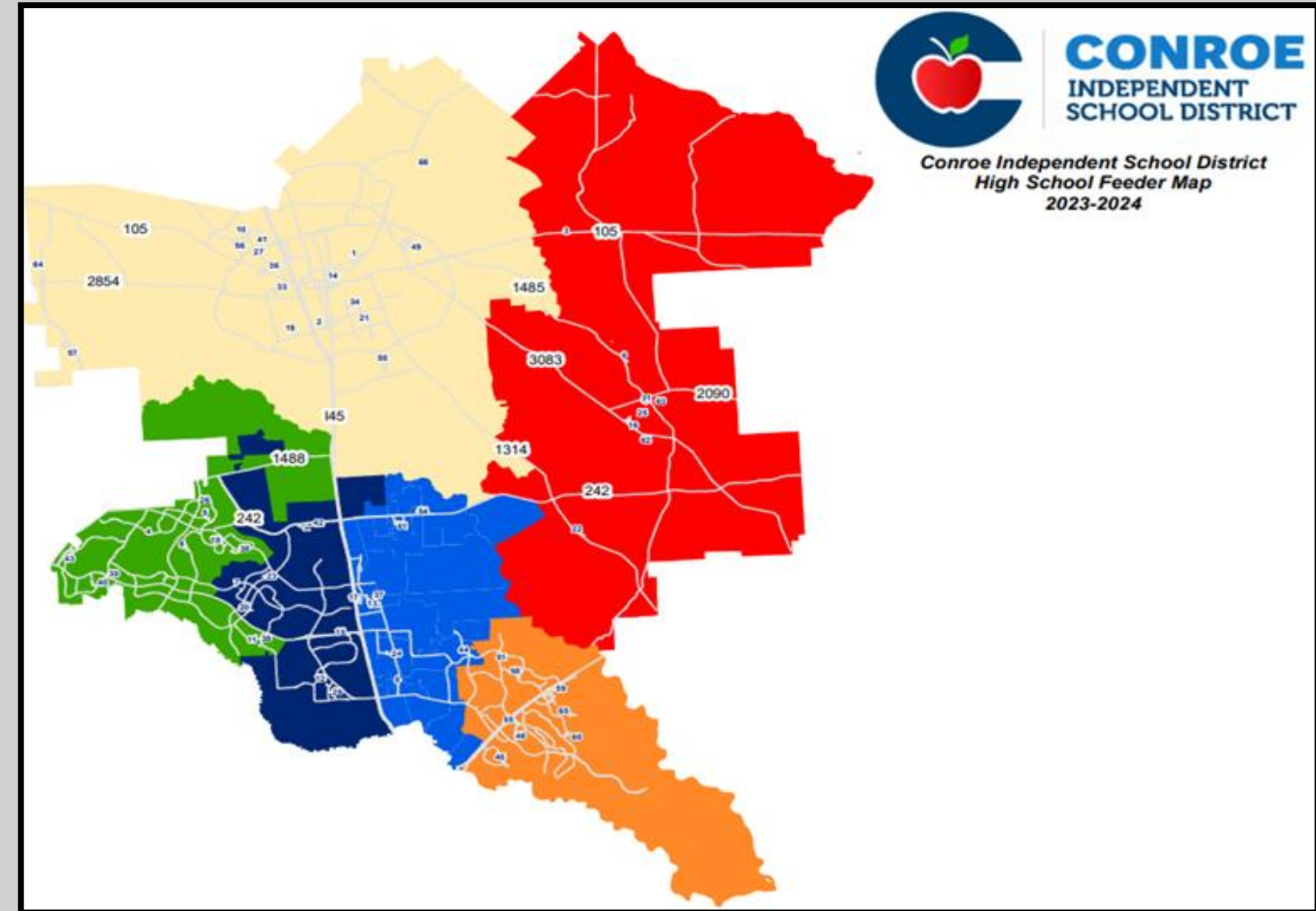
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# ROUTING & SCHEDULING

The core of school bus transportation lies in routing and scheduling.

Efficiency in routing plays a crucial role in transportation costs and delivering students safely and on-time. It directly influences the requirements for drivers, monitors, buses, fuel, parts, budget, and support staff.



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# ROUTING DEFINITIONS

- **RUN:**

- Segment of a route from first pick-up to last drop-off.

- **ROUTE:**

- Continuous sequence of runs starting and ending at parking spot.

- **SEATING CAPACITY:**

- Most large buses range from 71-78 passenger. Wheelchair positions count as four seats.
- Buses are typically rated by the manufacturer for three students per seat, although efforts are made to avoid this.





# DEFINITIONS STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Creating bus runs involves analyzing student demographics including where they live, grade levels served, and adaptive equipment required to determine stop locations.

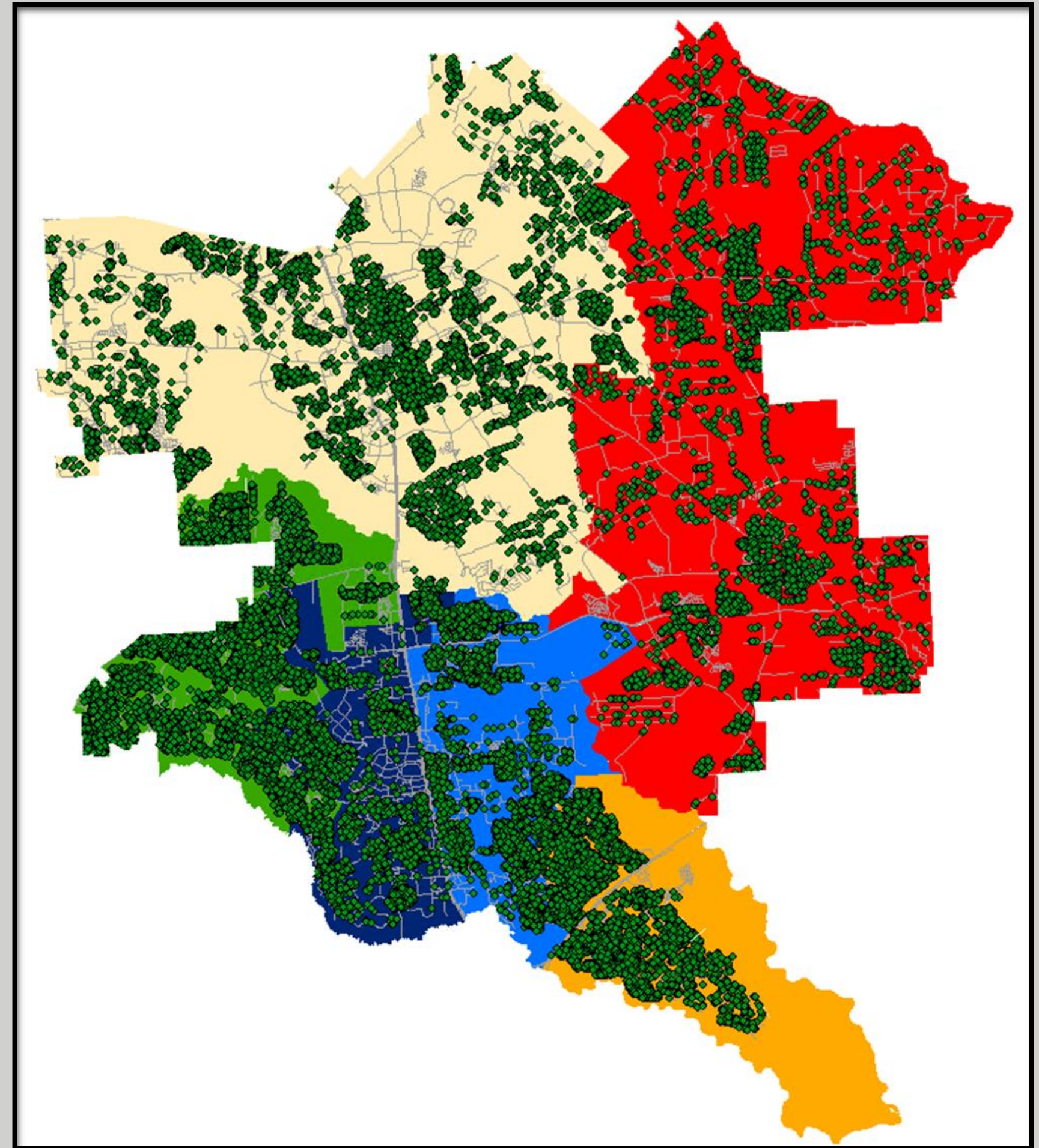
Routes are created in the summer based on parent registration of their student for bus service. Although not all students may be registered, no child will be left at a bus stop. This may cause early in the fall delays and the need for load balancing.





# STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

CISD attendance zones



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# REGULAR BUS STOP CRITERIA OVERVIEW

Proper bus stop locations are critical for the transportation system's success. Parental concerns about stop locations impact school transportation.

Balancing convenience with safety and efficiency is essential for providing practical solutions.



# BOARD-APPROVED WALK TO STOP DISTANCES

The Conroe ISD Board approved walk-to-stop maximum guideline distances for each grade level are:

- **PreK - Intermediate - 600 Feet or .11 miles**
- **Junior High - 1,200 Feet or .23 miles**
- **High School - 2,400 Feet or .45 miles**



Expectations for student walkers vary with age, environment, and special needs conditions. Other special circumstances are also considered such as cul-de-sacs, registered sex offenders, and public roadways when creating stops.



Parents are responsible for ensuring their students arrive safely to and from bus stops.





# ROUTE CONSIDERATIONS

## Private Property:

Traveling on private property for bus stops poses liability concerns as roadways may not support the bus weight. It's advised to avoid bus stops on private property like trailer parks and apartment complexes.

## Turn Around Areas:

Conroe ISD minimizes turnarounds on bus routes for safety. Turnaround areas need a 50-foot clearance, visibility for approaching traffic, and consideration for parked vehicles. Visibility requirements vary based on speed.



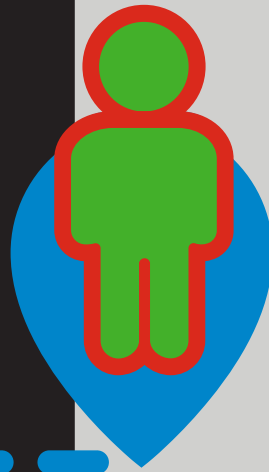
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# WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION?

CISD Board guideline states that students who live more than one mile from school or students who live near identified hazardous roads, such as a highway, are eligible for transportation.



## HOW IS THE ONE-MILE DISTANCE MEASURED?

The measurement is from the residence's driveway to the nearest point where a campus driveway meets the public road. Distances are determined using CISD's school bus routing software and/or MCAD maps.





# SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education requires tailored services for children with disabilities.

## **Stops:**

Special education bus stops typically offer curb-to-curb service for students and families.

## **Buses:**

Special education students may require additional specialized equipment and extra personnel in order to be safely transported.



# SPECIAL EDUCATION RUNS

- Ensure transportation times are similar to regular students.
- Do not shorten their school day due to transportation issues.
- May need extracurricular services and transportation to out-of-district facilities.

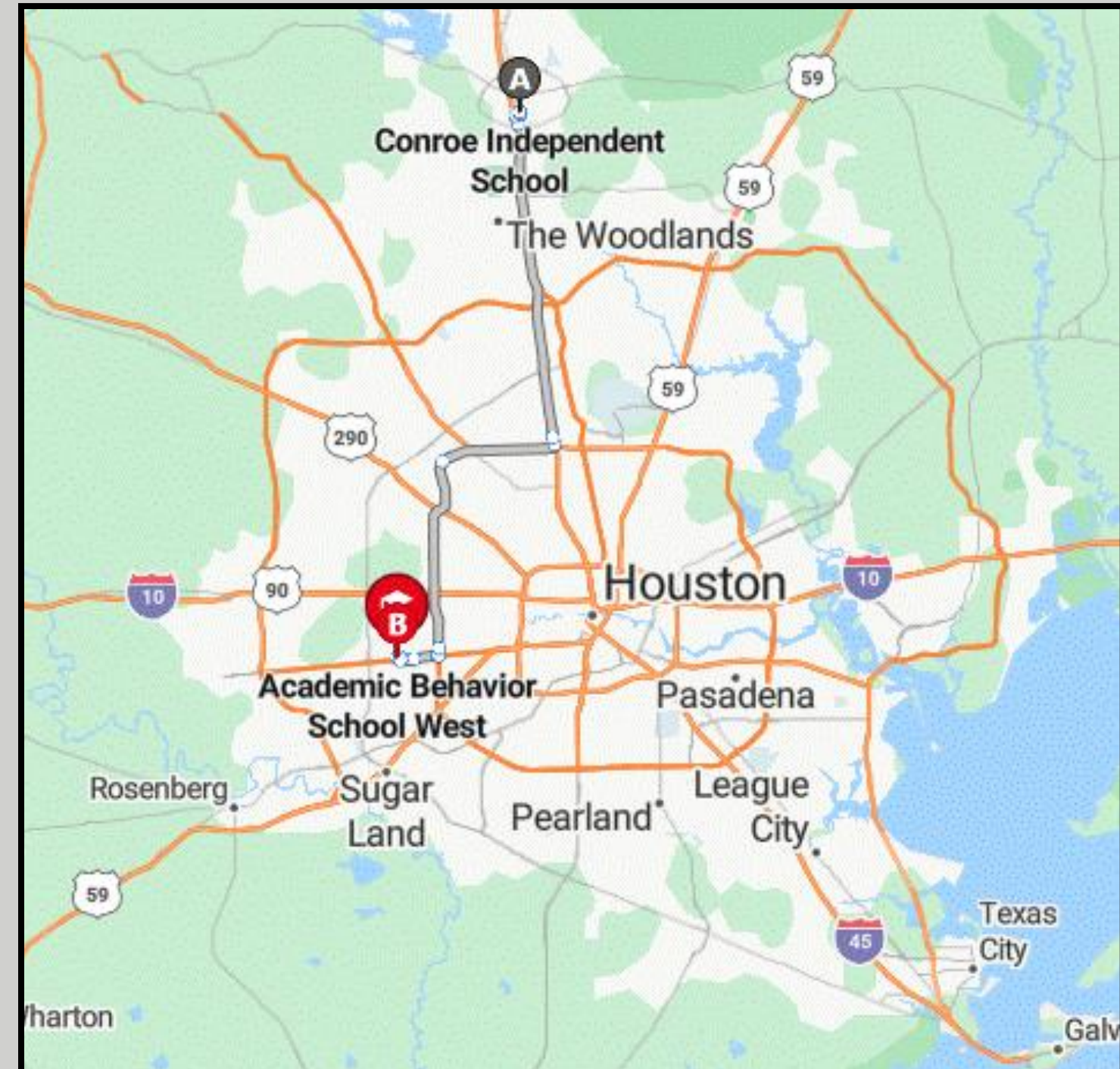




# OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED OUT SIDE OF DISTRICT

**ABS West (Academic and Behavior School West)**, part of the Harris County Department of Education, provides specialized education for students with disabilities at Academic and Behavior Schools. Transportation services are available for registered students to and from the school.

**McKinney- Vento**, students experiencing homelessness under McKinney-Vento Act are entitled to school of origin transportation, requiring collaboration between districts to arrange and shared responsibility and costs.





# 2021 COMPARISON



The most recent information we have from the State indicated the following transportation analysis of neighboring districts:

District	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	Enrollment	% Enrollment Transported	Cost per Student Transported
Houston ISD	333.4	196,943	3%	\$ 8,365
Cy-Fair ISD	188.4	114,881	40%	\$ 1,017
Katy ISD	172.6	84,176	17%	\$ 1,816
FT Bend ISD	169.9	76,735	12%	\$ 2,763
<b>Conroe ISD</b>	<b>347.2</b>	<b>64,563</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>\$ 978</b>
Aldine ISD	109.3	63,302	32%	\$ 1,403
Klein ISD	82.7	52,824	32%	\$ 894
Humble ISD	90.0	45,528	34%	\$ 752
Alief ISD	39.2	41,724	16%	\$ 2,820
Spring ISD	55.8	33,567	31%	\$ 1,290

- Our coverage area exceeds that of all neighboring districts.
- We transport the highest percentage of enrolled students.
- Our cost per transported student was among the lowest.





# 2021-2022 OPERATING EXPENDITURES COMPARISON



## 2021-22 Operating Expenditures By Function Comparison

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	Conroe ISD	State	Clear Creek ISD	Cy-Fair ISD	Fort Bend ISD	Humble ISD	Katy ISD	Klein ISD	Spring Branch ISD
Instruction	59.56%	55.85%	61.11%	63.32%	56.67%	58.65%	62.78%	59.91%	58.07%
Instructional Resources & Media Services	0.92%	1.00%	1.05%	0.64%	1.04%	0.75%	1.05%	0.86%	0.99%
Curriculum/Staff Development	2.72%	2.43%	3.01%	2.07%	2.65%	4.30%	1.94%	2.67%	3.04%
Instructional Leadership	1.04%	1.73%	0.97%	1.11%	2.41%	1.17%	0.83%	0.92%	1.97%
School Leadership	5.77%	5.76%	5.36%	4.48%	6.07%	5.50%	5.23%	6.09%	5.37%
Guidance and Counseling Services	4.50%	3.92%	4.18%	4.01%	4.86%	5.37%	5.05%	5.42%	5.40%
Social Work Services	0.27%	0.36%	0.23%	0.10%	0.36%	0.04%	0.12%	0.10%	0.04%
Health Services	1.21%	1.17%	0.98%	1.13%	1.57%	1.26%	1.01%	1.17%	1.08%
Transportation	4.54%	2.95%	3.16%	3.70%	2.89%	2.41%	2.44%	2.92%	2.37%
Food Service	3.86%	5.00%	3.80%	5.12%	3.75%	4.21%	3.96%	5.08%	4.28%
Extracurricular	1.97%	2.97%	3.75%	1.86%	2.70%	2.55%	2.85%	2.42%	1.80%
General Administration	1.54%	3.29%	1.86%	1.58%	2.29%	2.17%	1.58%	2.10%	2.47%
Facilities Maintenance & Operations	9.55%	9.86%	7.09%	7.31%	8.79%	8.61%	8.19%	7.07%	8.56%
Security & Monitoring Services	1.27%	1.10%	1.33%	1.20%	1.24%	1.27%	1.14%	1.19%	1.47%
Data Processing Services	1.19%	2.06%	1.83%	1.61%	2.47%	1.47%	1.69%	1.83%	2.43%

# FLEET AND SHOP

Our fleet and shop staff are tasked with maintenance of our extensive fleet of over 600 vehicles.

Within our department, we have one Fleet Manager, three Shop Foremen, and 18 Technicians dedicated to the maintenance and repair of all our vehicles.

Together, our fleet and shop personnel work tirelessly to uphold our commitment to safety, reliability, and to ensure our department meets the needs of the district.



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# CONROE ISD FLEET

Out of the 586 buses in the District:

- 464 are 71-78 passenger buses
- 122 are 22-53 passenger buses designated for special needs

In recent years, the department has transitioned to an all-air conditioned fleet for our regular route buses.

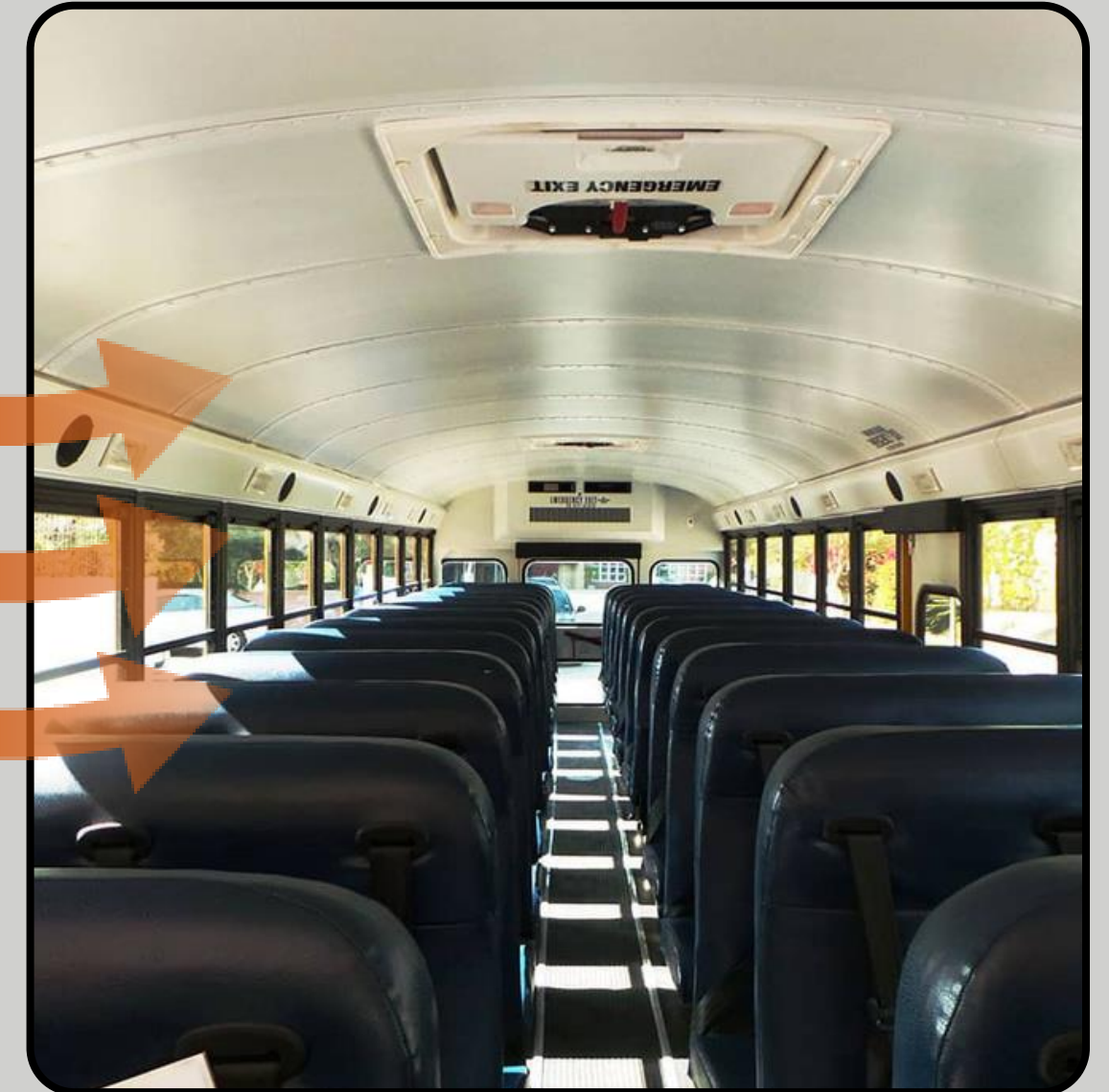
- Even with air conditioning, buses may still feel warm in extremely hot weather as the system typically lowers the temperature by around 20 degrees.
- Opening and closing bus doors at stops can also impact the interior temperature.





# BUS TEMPERATURE

For instance, if the temperature exceeds **100 degrees**, the lowest temperature that can generally be expected on buses is approximately **20 degrees** cooler than the outside air

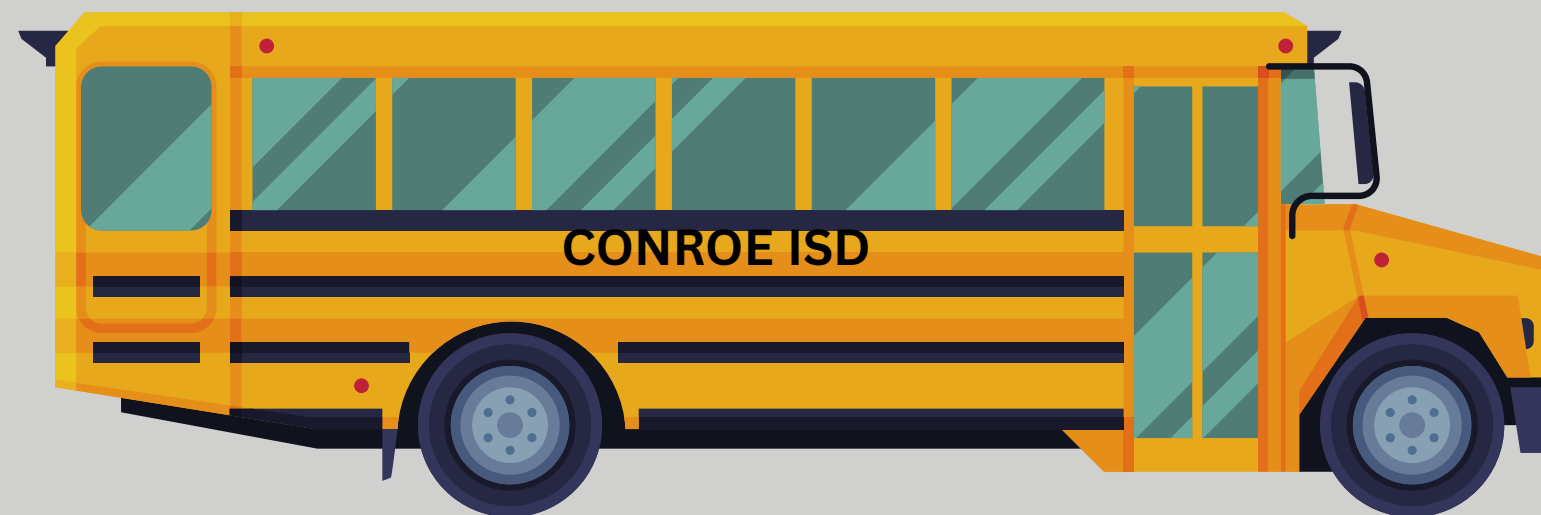




# FLEET CHALLENGES

Our fleet and shop staff are always ready to tackle any challenge. Factors that impact our efforts include:

- Fleet Age
- Technician to fleet ratio - Our fleet currently has a ratio of about 1 technician to 36 buses, which exceeds the national average of 1:20
  - We are always hiring
  - Technicians are moving to 261 day contracts
- Supply chain availability of parts
- Constraints of space
- Various types of buses and vehicles with different electronic systems and power sources





**THANK YOU!  
QUESTIONS?**



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