



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Instructional Services

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To: KPBSD Board of Education
From: John O'Brien
Date: October 30, 2017
RE: Instructional Day Transportation Questions

At the October 16th Board Meeting Soldotna High School shared information about their modified instructional day and a late bus run that takes those students home. This prompted some questions by the board. This memo includes information on what constitutes "home-to-school and school-to-home transportation" included within and covered by our contract language with Apple Bus Company (and previously First Student).

Also included here is a summary of what schools have offered and currently offer pertaining to 1) modified regular instructional day or; 2) after school tutoring opportunities that are not considered part of the instructional day but are "services outside the instructional day."

Bus Contract Language Concerning Regular Instructional Day and Charter Services:

A. Contract language pertinent to instructional related transportation:

Section I – 2.5 Time Schedules

Students will be transported in strict accordance with each school's time schedule established by the District. During the term of the Contract school day times may be altered so that schools are operated on schedules other than those currently used by the District.

Section 1 – 16.7 Charter Service Provisions

Charters are those trips taken by students for classroom-related events or extracurricular activities that do not fall under the home-to-school transportation categories compensated on a daily bus rate as described in this contract.

Section II – 1.1.2. Service to Be Provided

Transportation shall be required for all students identified as eligible by the District for transportation from/to designated pickup or drop locations, designated attendance centers or program locations, and other school-related learning experience sites for which participation is inherent in the student's educational programs. Individual attendance center/program location start and dismissal times may vary from year to year as the District directs.

As it relates to this particular situation, we have had two high schools that have been able to use bussing paid for out of the Transportation Budget as home-to-school and school-to-home transportation. They have been able to do so because they did two things.

- 1) The school modified the instructional day to end at a later time, and the instruction was directly related to obtaining credits or credit recovery.

- 2) The school shifted a certified staff members schedule to start later in the day and end later. Teacher pay involved here is regular teacher salary, not a stipend or payment for services outside the instructional day (\$25.00/hr).

Students who sign up in advance and participate qualify for School-to-Home Transportation within the bussing contract.

*This precludes students who stay after school for other reasons such as athletics, clubs, or other co-curricular activities from being able to ride this bus.

Summary of High School Modified Instructional Day:

As our high schools have strived to be innovative and adapt to meet the unique needs of their students some have modified their regular instructional day. This has been done by shifting a certified staff member's schedule to start later and end later and provide instruction after the normal dismissal bell. Seward High School and Soldotna High School are the only two high schools that have done this to date.

- Seward High School: During the 2014-2015 & 2015-2016 school years Seward High School had a certified teacher with a later start time and a later end time. This teacher instructed "blended" social studies classes to students who attended this modified instructional day for their social studies credits. Additionally, this instructor facilitated instructional support for students who were taking credit recovery courses, KPBSD distance delivered classes, and/or KPC college courses, and who needed assistance for other credit based coursework. Due to reduction in staff Seward High School discontinued its modified instructional day after the 2015-2016 school year.
- Soldotna High School: In 2014-2015 during the first year of the Soldotna Area High Schools reconfiguration, Soldotna High School began its modified instructional day and has continued it every year since 2014-2015. As was presented at the October 16th Board Meeting, a certified staff member has a shifted work day (comes in later and works later). During this modified instructional day the staff member works with students who are taking KPBSD distance courses, credit recovery classes, KPC classes, and who need assistance for other credit based coursework.

NOTE: In both the Seward High School and Soldotna High School modified instructional day only students participating in the modified instructional day are eligible to ride the bus home.

Tutoring Services Outside the Instructional Day:

Many of our schools offer after school tutoring opportunities for students that would not be considered part of the regular instructional day. These are considered services outside the instructional day. Typically, this tutoring is paid for by a state or federal grant or through some form of charitable donation or fund raising effort. The teacher is paid either a stipend or more commonly a payment for services outside the instructional day which is \$25.00/hr. (See attached Tutors Outside the Instructional Day-Certified Employees Only)

Some schools have provided busing home from school after tutoring by chartering directly with First Student (now Apple Bus Company). This has been paid for from 710 Activities Funds, fund raising efforts, or donations. (See attached Apple Bus Contract Attachment A for school related per hour busing costs)

Next Steps:

Our "large" high school principals have known for some time now that modifying the instructional day beyond normal dismissal times is an option if they are willing to "flex" certified staff to provide such instructional opportunities. Administration will re-visit this with high school principals for clarity.

Schools that provide tutoring services or other after school opportunities have also been able to for a fee charter directly with our bus contractor for after school busing. This option will also be reviewed again with principals.