

November 20, 2009

Dear Parents,

Since the beginning of school the school district and First Student have been working on bus stop and bus route issues. Bus stop issues are common at the beginning of the school year and these issues have been resolved. The larger issue has been that some of the bus routes are an hour long and longer when things do not go smoothly.

The school district requested that the bus routes be revised to be 45 minutes or less in length to be more equitable for all students. Last week First Student revised the routes and this week dry runs were made to verify that all routes met the time criteria and no bus stops were eliminated.

Elementary bus routes 2, 3, 4 and 6 were affected the most. Middle and high school bus routes 3, 4 and 6 were also significantly affected. Regardless of your child's bus route, please check the revised bus routes to determine if and how your student's bus stop will be impacted.

Please note that these changes will be effective the Monday after Thanksgiving. Your student may be riding a different bus and/or may have a change in their pick up and drop off time. Changes were not made with the pickup and drop off stop.

Revised bus routes have been posted at the schools and also on the district website under Parents & Community – Transportation at www.sau14.org. We encourage all parents to review your child's bus route. When viewing the bus routes find your bus stop by the school in which your child attends and then by the current place they are picked up and dropped off.

First Student will be available to answer any questions you may have on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm at 603-778-6900.

We appreciate your patience as we work to resolve these issues. It will take a few weeks for bus drivers and students to become fully familiar with the routes. As a result it will take more time initially, but become less so.

These changes will make our bus routes efficient and equitable for all students. The school district and First Student appreciate your understanding as we transition to the new routes. If you continue to have issues with your child's bus service, please contact the Superintendent of Schools at 679-8003 or bmunsey@sau14.org.

Sincerely,

First Student and Epping School District