

# Katy Independent School District



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**Goals** – The Katy Independent School District Transportation Department consists of regular employees and teacher/drivers, dedicated to the safe, on-time and efficient transport of the students in this district.

## **Safety** –

**The Bus** – The United States Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Public Safety have the legal authority and requirement to specify the construction of the bus to provide a safe bus. This safety record is a result of the Department of Transportation's requirements for compartmentalization on large school buses. Compartmentalization is the name for the protective envelope created by strong, closely-spaced seats that have energy-absorbing high seat backs that protect occupants in the event of a crash.

**The Driver** – The United States Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Public Safety have the legal authority to specify the requirements and conditions to become a school bus driver. KISD drivers average 8 years of bus driving experience.

**The Result** – One half of all elementary and secondary students in the U.S. depend on school bus transport. School bus transport in the U.S. is the safest mode of transportation; safer than walking, riding a bicycle, automobile or commercial bus. Every year, the nation's 450,000 public school buses travel more than 4.3 billion miles to transport 23.5 million children to and from school and school-related activities, according to a report from the Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In comparison with other forms of transportation, the report shows that students are nearly eight times safer riding in a school bus than in cars. The fatality rate for school buses is 0.2 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) compared to 1.5 fatalities per 100 million VMT for cars.

## **Department Facts:**

**Personnel** – 465 department employees and 358 teacher/drivers

**Facilities** – Two transportation centers – one is located at 5364 Franz Road that opened in 1979 and was renovated in 2004. The other center is located at 2901 Dulaney and opened in 1984.

**Students Transported Per Day** – 53,500 (approximately half the enrollment twice a day)

## **Bus Runs and Bus Stops** –

**Regular Education** – over 500 bus runs with approximately 8,000 stops daily

**Special Needs** – 276 bus runs with approximately 1,000 stops daily

**Fuel Consumption** (2006-07) – low sulfur diesel, 494,992 gallons; regular gasoline, 147,471 gallons

**District Fleet** – 403 school buses, 18 to 87-passenger capacities, 238 assorted automobiles and trucks, 641 total vehicles

**Miles Driven** (2006-2007) – 2,477,343 Regular Program; 893,853 Special Program; 1,514,910 Auxiliary

**Cost Per Mile** - \$4.04 Regular Program and \$2.78 Special Program

**Average Age of Bus** – Regular Program Buses – 10.3 years, Special Program Buses – 5.6 years

**Oldest Bus** – 1982 Regular Ed, 1986 Special Ed

## **Challenges:**

- August 27 – During the day, 53,500 students will ride on Katy ISD buses. 1,500+ of these students have never ridden a school bus and many cannot see out the window.
- Managing enrollment growth and the opening of new school(s)
- Maintaining a safe environment in the transport of students participating in the after-school tutorial programs, especially those of elementary age
- Maintenance and replacement of older buses
- Funding the purchase of new buses to accommodate the growth of approximately 3,000 students per year
- Funding the construction of a third transportation center in the southwest area of the district
- Renovation and expansion of the Mayde Creek Transportation Center
- Staffing the ever increasing number of 5,448 activity trips; approximately 50% trips having multiple buses