



October 13, 2023

Good Evening Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

The Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC) is writing to inform you all that we are diligently working on improving our bus arrival and dismissal times to pick up and drop off students from their respective District schools. We understand that the current situation is causing inconvenience and frustration for many of you, and we sincerely appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Some reasons for the delays in the transportation service are not having a full complement of drivers, even with our continued robust efforts in advertisement and recruitment, coupled with the fact that we have recently had a significant number of drivers out sick. Not having a full complement of drivers exacerbates the delayed transportation issue in your respective Districts when we have scheduled drivers out sick for days at a time. We are constantly trying to find creative and innovative ways of recruiting drivers so that we are operating at full capacity so that we are able to provide your children with quality transportation services to and from school. Recently with an uncommon amount of drivers out sick at the same time, we have been actively working to find the best solutions to minimize the impact of the lack of drivers and absent sick drivers on your children's transportation.

Some of the steps, we are taking to improve transportation services are:

1. Monitoring the bus arrival and dismissal times daily and making necessary changes as needed.
2. Offering current LPVEC employees a \$200 bonus for each individual that they recommend for a bus driver position that are hired and stay working for at least a year as a LPVEC bus driver.
3. With the shortage of drivers overall and more now due to illness, the Transportation Manager, the Assistant Transportation Manager, Managers, and Supervisors are driving the buses when needed to assist with your children and our students getting to and from their specific schools in a safe, orderly, and timely manner.

Once again, the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC) apologizes for any inconvenience that these transportation delays are causing you and your children. We are consistently strategizing and working to remedy these issues and are hopeful that the transportation services will be better moving forward. Lastly, we will keep you all updated on any changes or improvements to our transportation services. Please check our website for the latest information under Communications and Updates, or you can also contact our Transportation Department at (413)789-3291 or (413)596-9560, if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you all for your patience, understanding, and support during these disruptive times.

Sincerely,

Alvin W. Morton, I

Executive Director

#Connected&Empowered...

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:

Under state law, the Collaborative is prohibited from discriminating against any person in regard to any term or condition of employment (including educational opportunities and affirmative action) based on gender, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, handicap or disability, mental illness, retaliation, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, service in the military, and the results of genetic testing or any other class of individuals protected against discrimination under state or federal law. In addition, the Collaborative has an affirmative responsibility to provide maternity leave to biological and adoptive parents.

LOWER PIONEER VALLEY EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE

174 BRUSH HILL AVENUE, WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089 PHONE 413-735-2200 FAX 413-735-2280

SERVING AGAWAM•EAST LONGMEADOW•HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM•LONGMEADOW•LUDLOW•SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND-GRANVILLE•WEST SPRINGFIELD