



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 28, 2021

Dear Sahuarita Families:

School districts throughout the Nation are experiencing a severe school bus driver shortage. This national issue has hit home and is creating challenges for our own student transportation services. Despite the ongoing efforts to attract more drivers, the SUSD Transportation Department currently has only 68% of the drivers necessary to cover all routes, which equates to 20 current vacancies. Many of our neighboring school districts are experiencing a similar driver shortage.

Our priority is the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school. With that goal in mind and the current availability of bus drivers, we are implementing a gradual, phased **consolidation of bus stops known as Project R.O.A.R. (Route Optimization and Realignment)**. Project R.O.A.R. will utilize central locations, such as the neighborhood parks, to consolidate the number of bus stops for each bus route. The revisions will change bus stop locations, pick-up and drop-off times, and foreseeably the bus route numbers. However, these changes will result in fewer disruptions to the transportation schedule, shorter and more consistent wait times for students, and ensure students arrive on time to school each day.

It is anticipated that Project R.O.A.R. will impact approximately 90% of our current bus routes. Families will receive communication from the SUSD Transportation Department notifying them of the changes to their child's route. In addition, our online bus route system, [infoFinderi](#), will be updated to reflect the route changes.

The decision to make changes to an existing route is never easy and is only done after exhaustive research and a thorough exploration of options and alternatives. We have taken great care to minimize the impact to our families as much as possible; however, while unfortunate, this is a vitally important adjustment in our ongoing process to provide safe, first-rate transportation services given the current reduced number of bus drivers.

Our bus drivers are treasured by our schools, students, and families! Transporting children to and from school is a rewarding experience and a great way to become actively involved in the community. Consider joining #TeamSUSD as a school bus driver. Anyone interested in becoming a driver is encouraged to apply at sUSD30.us/bus-driver.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the SUSD Transportation Dispatch at extension 1188 or 1127.

As always, we appreciate your patience and understanding.

Office of Community Outreach

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Working as a team to help every student succeed.