

# Pupil Transportation

## DESCRIPTION

The School Transportation Program plays a vital role in the education process in the County. In addition to providing transportation to and from school, buses also transport students to extra curricular activities such as educational field trips, band and choral concerts, and sporting events.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To maintain a safe and efficient transportation system;
- To provide defensive driving, first aid classes, and discipline training as part of the driver training program;
- To deploy traffic guards where applicable to ensure the safety of students and buses entering and leaving the secondary schools.

## SERVICE LEVELS

The Transportation Department has achieved many goals this past year in an effort to maintain a safe and efficient transportation system. Transportation administrators meet monthly with the Bus Driver Advisory Committee to promote safety and to establish better lines of communication among drivers and school personnel.

Defensive driving and first aid classes were conducted as a part of the driver training program. During the past year, traffic guards ensured the safety of students and buses entering and leaving all secondary schools, and some elementary schools to ensure the safety of parents and students. In addition, drivers received assertive discipline training as part of the driver training program. To further assist drivers with maintaining discipline, twelve video cameras and seventy video camera boxes were installed on various buses throughout the County. To enhance the safety of students being transported, more than sixty-five buses were equipped with two way radios. Drivers also participated in the annual School Bus Roadeo. Hanover, Henrico, Chesterfield, and Richmond each sent six drivers to the Roadeo for the central region. Hanover County placed one driver in the State competition. School bus drivers receive a safe driving award each year for driving the entire year without a preventable accident. A Safe Driving Banquet was held for all drivers.

	<u>FY95</u>	<u>FY96</u>	<u>FY97</u>	<u>FY98</u>	<u>FY99</u>	<u>FY00</u>	<u>FY01</u>	<u>FY02</u>
Buses	164	185	185	208	210	216	225	227
Number of students transported daily	12,011	12,100	13,500	14,826	15,016	15,414	15,804	16262
Extra curricular trips	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,700	1,800	1,895	2,122	2271
Handicapped buses	6	6	10	12	14	16	18	19
Handicapped vehicles	20	24	24	24	25	26	27	25
Miles traveled *	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3
*Miles in millions								

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## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FY03

The Pupil Transportation budget includes five additional bus drivers and 2 additional bus aides. The drivers will operate five new bus routes in response to a growing enrollment while the bus aides will attend to students with special needs. The department will continue to implement the computerized bus routing system and begin preparations for the opening of the new high school in the fall of 2003.

The operating expenses have increased due to a greater number of buses and a higher level of service being contracted from the County's vehicular maintenance service. The purchase of service vehicles, driver education vehicles, and special transportation vehicles has been reduced from prior levels in order to maximize salary and instructional staffing in a climate of limited resources.

FY04

The budget includes funds for thirteen additional bus drivers and two special needs bus attendants. Eight of the bus drivers are for need for the opening of Hanover High School and the remaining positions are to address other needs throughout the district. Other increases include increased transportation costs, lease payments for two way radios, and three new Lead Driver Specialists.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

### Expenditures

	<b>FY02 Budget</b>	<b>FY02 Actual</b>	<b>FY03 Budget</b>	<b>FY04 Budget</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
<b>Pupil Transportation:</b>					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 3,374,070	\$ 3,437,072	\$ 3,515,348	\$ 4,030,621	14.7%
Operating Expenditures	1,434,299	1,363,174	1,578,132	1,715,780	8.7%
Capital Outlay	110,900	81,024	78,672	16,700	-78.8%
<b>TOTAL, Pupil Transportation</b>	<b>\$ 4,919,269</b>	<b>\$ 4,881,270</b>	<b>\$ 5,172,152</b>	<b>\$ 5,763,101</b>	<b>11.4%</b>
Full-time Positions	229	229	236	255	8.1%
Part-time Positions	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Full-time Equivalents	229.0	229.0	236.0	255.0	8.1%