



SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION REPORT 2011-2012

8/31/2012

Pupil Transportation Consulting, Inc.
Colleen A. Cavanaugh

August 31, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC) this report is being submitted to summarize the findings of the Massachusetts Special Education Transportation project funded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Actual ridership information by vehicle was collected from various private and collaborative day programs to identify current multi-district routes and identify potential opportunities where route sharing can be initiated. An on-line resource has been created to provide actual ridership data and the October 1 DESE data. The website will provide school districts and program personnel with another tool to use as they strive to maintain high quality cost-effective transportation for all special education students in the Commonwealth.

The data generated in this report is helpful and illustrative of the potential cost benefit to school districts when multi-district routing occurs and provides information on potential cost share opportunities in the future. The information is reflective of actual routes conducted as of May 2012. This provides an opportunity for school districts to review last year's data to see what opportunities existed last year, see actual routes they shared with other districts, examine existing trends and plan for future transportation services.

We believe that this project clearly demonstrates the opportunity for multi-district routing and provides districts with information that will help them to make sound fiscal decisions and maximize cost benefits. The project will be funded in FY2013 to expand and update the program database to assist districts in the current school year to maximize cost benefits.

We would like to acknowledge the Massachusetts Association of Approved Private Schools, (maaps) and the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC) for their assistance in this project and a special thank you to the private and collaborative day programs that participated.

Respectfully,

Colleen Cavanaugh

Pupil Transportation Consulting, Inc.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION STUDY 2011-2012

Background

For the past several years the Massachusetts Legislature and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have funded initiatives to reduce the cost of out of district Special Education transportation. These efforts have continued to meet with great success. The State funded an initiative in FY2011 that collected data from targeted private day and collaborative programs on the actual ridership by vehicle at the school site. This data was sorted by district, county, and program to allow special education administrators who are not part of a collaborative transportation network to determine if route sharing does exist and they are not aware of it and/or if route sharing among neighboring districts should be initiated. The project met with great success and clearly demonstrated the potential for generating cost savings and providing a valuable resource for districts that it was funded again in FY2012. One of the goals was to create an online resource for school districts to access the ridership data and seek opportunities for cost share.

According to October 1, 2011 data 10,339 students attended 414 special education programs in FY2012. Special education administrators have highlighted that they do not necessarily know if students from neighboring communities are attending the same out of district placement as students from their town. They further have noted that they do not always know if there are students from neighboring towns attending the same out of district program or if these students are on the same vehicle.

Purpose

As part of the State's on-going efforts to reduce and create efficiencies in the area of Special Education Transportation the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, (DESE) continued funding in FY2012. The same programs as last year were selected, established by using the DESE October 1, 2010 Census of Special Education Placements to identify programs with students attending from fifteen or more districts. A survey was sent to 82 targeted private day and collaborative programs to collect data to include; vehicle type, vendor name, number of students, home district for each student on the vehicle, and if a monitor is required. It is important to stress that not all routes and students can be combined; this data is for informational purposes and may not result in a cost savings. There are many factors that affect special education transportation services and this should be taken into consideration when discussing route combinations.

Outcomes

Data was received from 33 of the 54 targeted private day programs, representing a 61% participation rate, and from 16 of the 28 collaborative programs, representing a 57% participation rate. The information collected was input into the Microsoft Access Data Base. In addition to the ridership data, the October 1, 2011 data was imported into the database. This enables districts to view every program in the State and can further facilitate ride share opportunities. The ridership data is represented by students from 215 school districts attending 33 private day programs and 16 collaborative programs, utilizing 163 service providers transporting 2,951 students on 1,266 vehicles, for an average ridership of 4.3 students per vehicle.

The service providers are represented by 104 private vendors, 9 collaborative/private day providers, and 50 public school transportation providers. Not included on this list are the Collaboratives that coordinate transportation services on behalf of their member districts these include: the Assabet Valley Collaborative, LABBB/EDCO, BICO and GLEC.

The list of participating programs, school districts and transportation service providers are included in this report, Addendum A, B and C.

The information generated from this project will assist districts in assessing their current transportation routes to ensure the per day cost reflects the actual ridership and to create additional multi-district route opportunities when possible.

A website was developed, www.spedtranssavings.org, to provide districts with the October 1 data and the actual ridership data from targeted programs, publications, and technical assistance.

On the "Inquiry" tab, the district has the option of selecting the "District View"; this represents the October 1 data or the "Ridership", which shows the actual ridership for a particular program. The October 1 data is illustrated in Figure 3. The district, Newburyport in this case, can view all students attending the Learning Prep School as of October 1, 2011. By selecting the "Ridership", the district can see the actual vehicle transporting their student, Figure 4. In this illustration the district can see that they are sharing the vehicle with Boxford and Topsfield, and their student is being transported by Safeway. The vehicle type is represented by, "M" – caravan, "S" – sedan, "V" – eight or twelve passenger van, "B" – yellow school bus and "W" – wheelchair van.

October 1 Data

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION INQUIRY

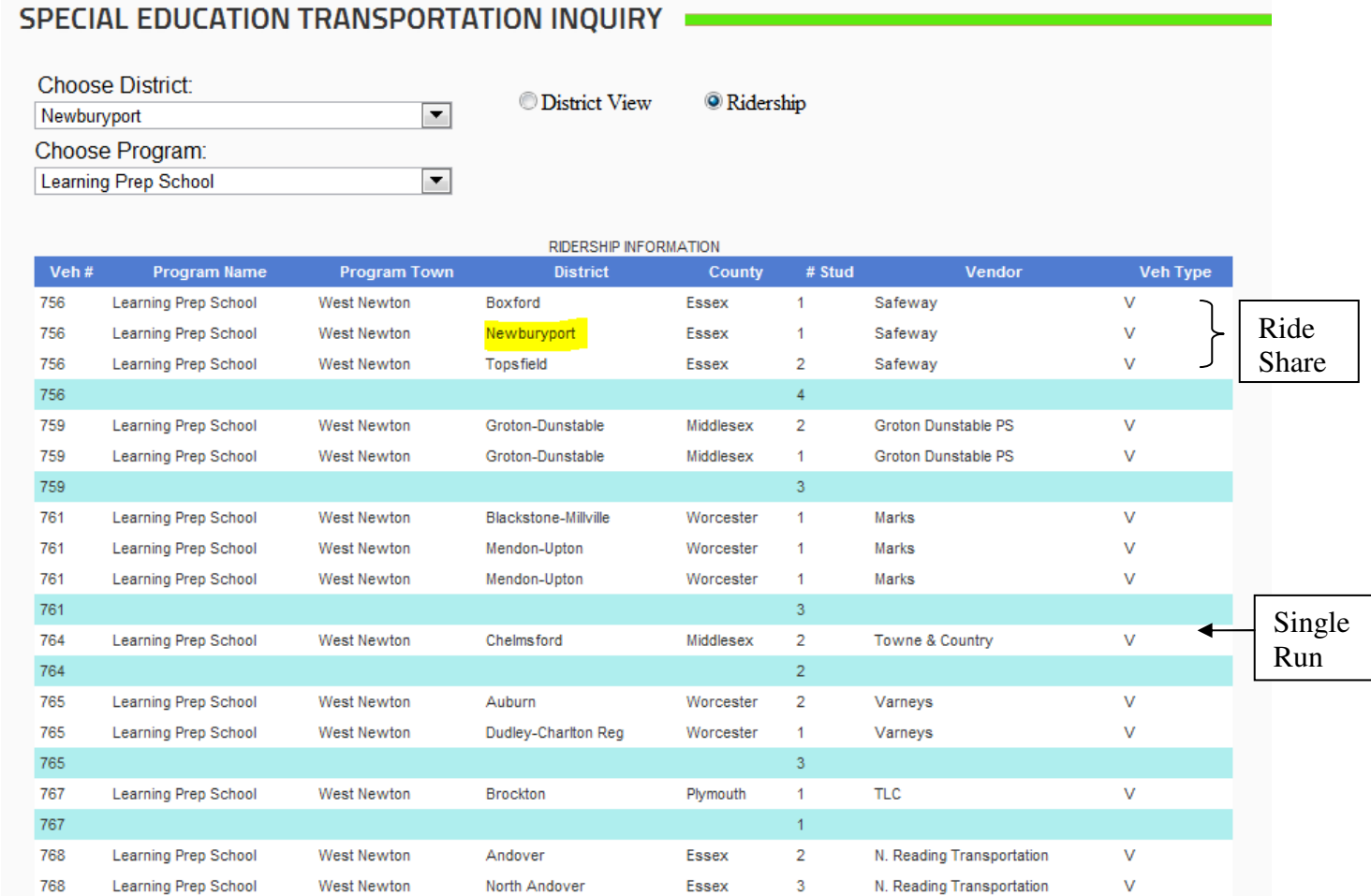
Choose District: District View Ridership

Choose Program:

DISTRICT VIEW

Program Name	Program Code	District Name	County	# Stud
Learning Prep School	02070867	Attleboro	Bristol	1
Learning Prep School	02070867	Easton	Bristol	2
Learning Prep School	02070867	Norton	Bristol	5
Learning Prep School	02070867	Westport	Bristol	1
Learning Prep School	02070867	Amesbury	Essex	1
Learning Prep School	02070867	Andover	Essex	2
Learning Prep School	02070867	Beverly	Essex	2
Learning Prep School	02070867	Georgetown	Essex	2
Learning Prep School	02070867	Hamilton-Wenham	Essex	3
Learning Prep School	02070867	Lynn	Essex	2
Learning Prep School	02070867	Lynnfield	Essex	5
Learning Prep School	02070867	Marblehead	Essex	1
Learning Prep School	02070867	Masconomet	Essex	1
Learning Prep School	02070867	Methuen	Essex	1
Learning Prep School	02070867	Newburyport	Essex	1
Learning Prep School	02070867	North Andover	Essex	4
Learning Prep School	02070867	Peabody	Essex	2
Learning Prep School	02070867	Pentucket	Essex	1

Ridership Data



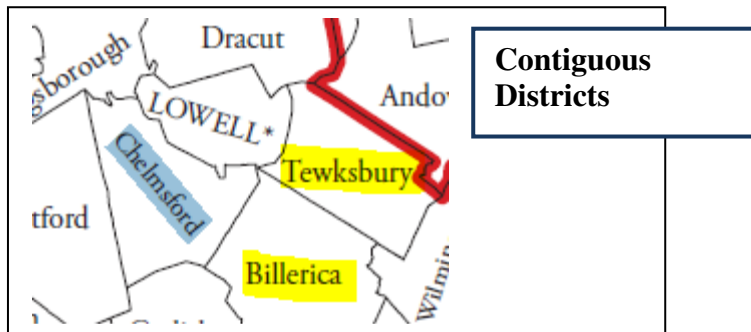
The district may or may not be aware of a ride share and should verify that a cost benefit is realized. A district may want to review the routes and determine if potential opportunities exist to cost share with a neighboring district if they are currently riding alone. An example would be for the Chelmsford Public Schools to review the potential to share with another district, as illustrated above, they are currently on a single run, vehicle number 764, transported by Towne & Country. Upon further review of the data, it is shown that Billerica and Tewksbury are currently sharing a vehicle, Figure 5. It is important to note that not all students or routes can be combined; this is for discussion purposes only. The information below was extracted from the website.

Vehicle#	District	Vendor	Vehicle Type	County	# Students
756	Boxford	Safeway	V	Essex	1
	Newburyport	Safeway	V	Essex	1
	Topsfield	Safeway	V	Essex	2
764	Chelmsford	Towne & Country	V	Middlesex	2
796	Billerica	MEC	V	Middlesex	1
	Tewksbury	MEC	V	Middlesex	2

Potential Ride

←

} ←



A private day or collaborative program director may want to access the site to be able to share potential ride share opportunities at a team meeting with the sending district. This can further expedite a student's transportation arrangements to the program.

Cost Savings Example

The "Ridership" view illustrates the actual ridership at the program site, Figure 4. Currently the Boxford, Newburyport and Topsfield School Districts cost share the route to Learning Prep. In this example the districts individually realize a cost avoidance of \$25,812 per year. Based on utilizing a state wide average of \$215 dollars per day per vehicle.

Example

District	Current per Day Cost	Cost Avoidance Per Day	Annual Savings 180 Days
Boxford PS	\$71.60	\$215.00	\$25,812.00
Newburyport PS	\$71.60	\$215.00	\$25,812.00
Topsfield PS	\$71.60	\$215.00	<u>\$25,812.00</u>

Combined Cost Avoidance (Savings): \$77,436.00

** This example does not reflect actual cost; it is for demonstration purposes only.*

Conclusion

The actual ridership data collected at the school site is a valuable resource for school districts as they strive to maintain costs in the area of special education transportation. It allows a district to determine if a ride share exists and they are receiving a cost benefit and to explore additional opportunities to cost share with contiguous communities. The October 1 Data provides districts with information for all special education programs in the state and can also assist with the planning process. The website will provide school districts and program personnel with another tool to use as they strive to maintain high quality cost-effective transportation for all special education students in the Commonwealth. The DESE has continued funding in FY2013 to sustain and support this initiative.

ADDENDUM A

Participating Programs	
Private Day	Collaborative
B C Campus School	Bi-County Life Transition
Beacon High School	CASE Collaborative Program *
Beverly School for the Deaf	Coap/Scoap/Sch to Work
Cardinal Cushing	LABBB- Bedford
Clarke School	LABBB-Arlington
Clearway School	LABBB-Lexington
CNS Pathways	North River School
Community Therapeutic School	Northshore Academy
Cotting School	Northshore-Children's Center
Curtis Blake School	Northshore-Kevin O'Grady Sch
Dearborn Academy	Pilgrim Academy *
Devereux School	Pilgrim PAC *
Dr Franklin Perkins Sch	READS Academy
Gifford School	READS-Deaf Program
Granite Academy	SEEM-Hurd Sch
Italian Home for Children	SEEM-Therapeutic
League School	
Learning Prep	
Lighthouse School	
Longview Farm and Clifford Sch	
Manville Sch	
May Institute	
Melmark New England	
Milestones	
RCS Learning Center	
St Ann's School	
The Learning Center for the Deaf	
The Victor School	
Walker Home and School	
Wayside Academy School	
White Oak School	
Willie Ross School For Deaf	
Willow Hill School	
	<i>* Not on web data base at this time</i>

ADDENDUM B

Vendors Providing Transportation					
Private Vendor			Collaborative/Private Day Provider	Public School	
104 Providers			9 Providers	50 Providers	
AA Trans	Heritage	Response Transit	ACCEPT	Amherst PS	Sharon PS
Action EMS	Hunter	Ride Rite	C.A.S.E.	Attleboro PS	Southwick-Tolland
AR-BEL Trans	J & P	Rite Way	Cape Cod Collaborative	Barnstable PS	Springfield PS
Arlington-Belmont Cab	J & R Trans	Royal Taxi	LPVEC	Berkley PS	Sutton PS
Assist	J.S.C. Trans	S.C.O.	MEC	Beverly PS	Swansea PS
Atlantic Express	JAM Trans	Safeway	N. Shore Ed Consort.	Boston PS	Tantasqua PS
Bedford Charter	JBL	S.Boro Village Tra	North River Collab	Braintree PS	Tyngsborough PS
Bill's Taxi	JFK	SP&R Trans	SWCEC	Brookfield PS	Wareham PS
Boston/First Choice	Judco	Spence		Canton PS	Wellesley PS
Braintree Blue Cab	Kabco	Springfield Spec Trans		Carver PS	Westford PS
Brewer & Lowe	Keissling	Statewide Trans		Dartmouth PS	Winthrop PS
Broadway Trans	KJ	Taunton Motor Coach	Private Day	East Longmeadow	Worcester PS
Cape Cod Trans	KTI	Tellstone & Sons	Dearborn	Easton PS	
Cape Taxi	LBI 57	TLC		Falmouth PS	
Caring Choice	LBK	TMC		Framingham PS	
Churchill Trans	Lencrenski	Towne & Country		Freetown/Lakeville	
CJ's Transportation	Lisa Transportation	Travelers Transit		Groton Dunstable	
Clinton Livery	Lizak Bus Company	Tremblay Bus Co		Hanover PS	
CMK Wayland	Luncini	Trombly Motor Coach		Haverhill PS	
Community Action	Malden Taxi	Van Pool		Holliston PS	
Country Cab	Marks	Varneys		Holyoke PS	
Country Carriage	MART	VHS Transport		Hopedale P.S.	
D&R Transportation	Mass Opportunity	Village Transportation		Ipswich PS	
Danvers	Mass Tran	VSP		Lawrence PS	
Dee Bus	McCarthy & Sons	W. Spence		Malden PS	
Dunham	MCJ Transportation	WCT		Marshfield P.S.	
ENOS	Mill City Transit	Whaling City		Medway PS	
First Call	MS 99	YCN		Melrose PS	
First Choice	Mystic Services Inc.			Middleboro PS	
First Medical	N. Reading Tran			Millis PS	
First Student	Need-A-Lift			Monson PS	
Fisher	N.Shore Shuttle			North Attleboro PS	
Fox Trans	Northeast Network			Norwood PS	
Fred Bus Co.	On Time Vans			Oxford PS	
Gokey & Quinn	PRN			Quincy PS	
Green Taxi	Provider			Rockland PS	
Greenfield Van	R Fiore			Sandwich PS	
H&L Bloom	RAZ			Seekonk PS	

ADDENDUM C

Special Education Transportation Project: Districts Identified

Abington	Cohasset	Hopkinton	Narragansett	South Hadley
Acton	Concord	Hudson	Nashoba	Southborough
Acton-Boxborough	Concord-Carlisle	Hull	Natick	Southbridge
Agawam	Danvers	Ipswich	Needham	Southwick-Tolland
Amesbury	Dedham	King Philip	Newburyport	Spencer-E Brookfield
Amherst	Dighton-Rehoboth	Kingston	Newton	Springfield
Amherst-Pelham	Dover	Lawrence	Norfolk	Stoneham
Andover	Dover-Sherborn	Leicester	North Andover	Stoughton
Arlington	Dracut	Leominster	North Attleborough	Sudbury
Ashburnham- Westminster	Dudley-Charlton Reg	Lexington	North Easton	Swampscott
Ashland	Duxbury	Lincoln	North Middlesex	Tantasqua
Athol-Royalston	East Bridgewater	Lincoln-Sudbury	North Reading	Taunton
Attleboro	East Longmeadow	Littleton	Northampton	Tewksbury
Auburn	Easthampton	Longmeadow	Northboro-Southboro	Topsfield
Ayer Shirley Sch Dist.	Easton	Lowell	Northborough	Triton
Barnstable	Everett	Ludlow	Northbridge	Tyngsborough
Bedford	Fall River	Lunenburg	Norton	Wachusett
Belchertown	Falmouth	Lynn	Norwell	Wakefield
Belmont	Fitchburg	Lynnfield	Norwood	Walpole
Berkley	Foxborough	Malden	Orange	Waltham
Berlin-Boylston	Framingham	Mansfield	Oxford	Ware
Beverly	Franklin	Marblehead	Palmer	Watertown
Billerica	Frontier	Marlborough	Peabody	Wayland
Blackstone-Millville	Gardner	Marshfield	Pembroke	Webster
Boston	Georgetown	Masconomet	Plymouth	Wellesley
Boston	Gloucester	Maynard	Quabbin	West Boylston
Bourne	Grafton	Medfield	Quaboag Regional	West Bridgewater
Boxborough	Granby	Medford	Quincy	West Springfield
Boxford	Greenfield	Medway	Randolph	Westborough
Braintree	Groton-Dunstable	Melrose	Reading	Westfield
Bridgewater-Raynham	Hamilton-Wenham	Mendon-Upton	Revere	Westford
Brockton	Hampden-Wilbraham	Methuen	Rockland	Weston
Brookline	Hampshire	Middleborough	Rockport	Westport
Burlington	Hampshire Reg	Middlebrook	Salem	Westwood
Cambridge	Hanover	Middleton	Sandwich	Weymouth
Canton	Harvard	Milford	Saugus	Whitman-Hanson
Carlisle	Haverhill	Millbury	Scituate	Wilmington
Carver	Hingham	Millis	Sharon	Winchendon
Central Berkshire	Holbrook	Millville	Sherborn	Winchester
Chelmsford	Holden	Milton	Shrewsbury	Winthrop
Chelsea	Holliston	Mohawk Trail	Silver Lake	Woburn
Chicopee	Holyoke	Monson	Somerset	Worcester
Clinton	Hopedale	Nahant	Somerville	Wrentham