

Expansion of charter and nonpublic school enrollment compounds public school transportation dilemma.

School districts bear the burden of transporting students to charter school and private school buildings, as well as district buildings. Starting and ending times of the school day vary drastically; thus, planning bus routes borders on the impossible. Some school districts transport students to more charter school and private school buildings than district buildings. Public school districts are fined by the State for not meeting time schedules of charters and private schools.

Bus driver shortages complicate the student transportation problem. To further compound this dilemma, the enrollment of charter schools and private schools is increasing. From the Fall of 2021 to the Fall of 2025, private school enrollment increased by over 11%. The charter school enrollment increased by over 4% during the same time period.

Who is attempting to solve this tangled student transportation issue? School district personnel try mightily. State officials punish districts that do not have sufficient resources to fix the problem.