High School Transportation Plan

Key Elements

- To give high schools flexibility and the ability to offer additional academic opportunities to students, the Board of Education approved a proposal that relies on the Regional Transportation District (RTD) system to transport high school students to their school or magnet program.

- Under the plan, students eligible for transportation will receive a free RTD pass. Regular DPS buses (yellow buses) will continue for athletics and other activities. The plan does not change transportation for high school special education students.

- High schools will start at 7:30 a.m. and end at 4:15 p.m.

Facts & Figures

- Only 9 percent of Denver’s 17,000 high school students actually ride the bus. While 3,000 high school students live more than 3 miles from school and qualify for transportation, only about 1,600 ride a yellow bus to school.

- Fourteen percent of high school students (2,400 students) already ride RTD to school. An additional 1,200 middle school students already ride RTD to school.

- The vast majority of high school students walk, drive a car, carpool or ride RTD to get to school. The district will work with RTD to expand bus service on any routes where existing service levels need to be expanded at certain times of the day.

- While ride times for some students will be longer and for others will be shorter, an analysis by district staff shows that the average ride times may increase by about three minutes. In some cases, average ride times will shorten by 12 minutes. In other cases, average ride times may increase by 16 minutes.

- By not relying on DPS yellow buses to deliver high school students, about 26 elementary schools will move their bell times 45 minutes earlier in the day, to 8:15 a.m. (This is required to achieve transportation savings needed to offset the costs of the RTD bus passes.) Walk In schools will be allowed to set their own start times with approval of the Area Superintendents.

For More Information

- Frequently asked questions and answers and a complete copy of the high school transportation proposal are online under “updates” from the Denver Public Schools website, http://www.dpsk12.org.