



## TRANSPORTATION OFFICE SAU 5

ORCSD  
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Dear Parents:

When getting bus routes ready for the start of school, 4<sup>th</sup> grade moving up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are removed from the Elementary route. New students are added to the routes. Sometimes this creates big issues with bus route times depending on location of students. When this happens I look at several things.

- Help from another bus route
- Consolidated bus stops
- Removing roads from the bus route creating bus stops at the ends of the roads

As a majority of ORCSD elementary bus routes are running 35-45 minutes long this year, it is time to move to the next level; removing the buses from dead end roads, cul-de-sacs and minimizing the number of bus stops. By doing these things, we will be reducing student ridership time. We recognize that is this is not desirable, however it is necessary.

School buses are designed to stop traffic for the purpose of loading/unloading students on the roadways. All school bus drivers are specifically trained to safely execute school bus stops using State of NH DOT safety rules and regulations. Please understand that this type of stop is common and all bus drivers are specifically trained in executing these bus stops safely.

HSMS bus routes have been consolidated down as far as safety allows. The routes are still running 35-45 minutes long. This does not help ease up on the time elementary students are getting home in the afternoon. We have made changes to initiate the consolidated bus stops on the elementary bus routes bringing ridership time down considerably for elementary students. Please understand that not all bus routes were able to be helped this way.

In summary: current consolidations for elementary bus routes have brought ridership time from 40-45 minutes to 20 – 35 minutes! This makes for a safe and desirable route for all involved.

Please feel free to make contact with me at any time.

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