



Coatesville Area  
School District

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3030 C.G. Zinn Rd. Thorndale, PA 19372 | [casdschools.org](http://casdschools.org) | 610-466-2433

November 10, 2020

Dear CASD Community,

I want to provide an update on our transportation issue, as well as a sincere apology for this operational failure. Parents, students, and staff were deeply disappointed, and we are working around the clock with additional support to rectify this issue. We are extremely sorry for this breakdown and want you to know that we are committed to solving this problem as quickly as possible.

A return to in-person, hybrid learning is important for our students, and we are trying to find equitable, expedient solutions for Monday. Longer-term viable solutions must also be developed, and we pledge to keep our community informed as we move forward. We will issue daily updates this week; and will communicate about next steps by the end of the day on Wednesday, November 11. We ask that you read this letter in its entirety for important information.

### **What went wrong?**

Ultimately, the problem stemmed from our transportation department delivering its schedules to Krapf Bus at least a week late. This was compounded by a number of other factors and complexities, including a nationwide driver shortage, pandemic scheduling, and the fact that we are operating with 15 fewer buses than last year - a cost-saving change recommended last school year by the PA Association of School Businesses Officials transportation audit that allowed us to save \$750,000 annually and avoid a tax increase. You can see that audit [here](#).

### **Why such late notice?**

Notification that the District was experiencing transportation challenges with both CASD students as well as our non-public students (all PA public schools are required by law to provide private school bussing) came to the administrative level late last week. We worked through the weekend to address these scheduling problems, but the true extent of the issues was not discovered until late Sunday afternoon.

By Sunday night it became obvious that after exhausting all options, opening school with hybrid learning on Monday would pose a safety issue because of a lack of adequate transportation for our students. We then made the very difficult decision to notify parents that we would need to remain fully virtual for the week. We know this notice came very late and caused a tremendous amount of stress for many families. Again, we apologize for this.

### **What will you do to ensure adequate transportation moving forward?**

We have quickly analyzed the breakdown in an effort to find solutions. Among the things we have done and are doing this week:

- In-depth analysis of transportation schedules, in close collaboration with Krapf Bus
- Krapf has hired an experienced, veteran transportation manager to assist, short-term, with Coatesville's scheduling
- We have removed the students who have chosen virtual learning from our schedules for the time being. (Like some neighboring districts, we originally built bus schedules including these students so that transportation would be available for them if they chose to return to in-person learning. Now, we are removing them for the short-term as we work to get our transportation operational.)

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Tomás Hanna**

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- We will conduct an in-depth analysis of our transportation department and ensure that the proper staff, processes, guidance, and support are in place to ensure effective scheduling and operations.

### **What is next?**

- By the end of the day on Wednesday, November 11 we have committed to informing parents of our plans for Monday, November 16, in order to provide adequate planning time.
- For the rest of this school week:
  - Wednesday will remain an asynchronous day, as previously scheduled.
  - Students should log into their classes as they've done since the beginning of the school year, but will follow an in-person schedule. For secondary students, those schedules are posted on the Home Access Center; for elementary, they are posted on their teacher's Canvas page.
  - Our special education programs that have been operating in-person since the beginning of the school year will continue to provide in-person support.
  - Food distribution will continue to occur on Wednesdays at our regular locations.
- Daily communication updates will be sent to parents via email, text, phone, and posted on social media, as well as on our website.

Again, we are committed to solving this transportation issue, and as parents and educators, we understand the anger and frustration this has caused. Thank you for giving us a chance to right this wrong. We are very much looking forward to having our students back in our schools.

Sincerely,

Tomás Hanna, Superintendent

