

Board of Education

Columbia County
Board of Education



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Columbia County Schools – 4781 Hereford Farm Road, Evans, GA 30809
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Columbia County School Buses Will Run Trial Bus Routes on Friday, August 10 *Entire bus fleet (100%) passed safety inspection by Georgia Department of Public Safety*

This news release is to notify parents and the community that if they see school buses out on Friday, August 10 throughout the day it is because the Transportation Department of the Columbia County Board of Education will be driving trial bus runs. Trial bus runs are important for both our new and veteran bus drivers to drive the bus route and time the bus stops prior to the first day of school. The Columbia County Board of Education uses a route mapping software to establish bus routes within each school zone. There are 170 routes planned across Columbia County to transport over 13,000 students to and from school every day including physically and neurologically handicapped children enrolled in special education programs. This year, our Board approved the installation of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) on route buses to allow instant access to the location of a particular bus, along with real-time and historical information (fuel consumption, speed, etc). Our entire fleet of special needs buses (33) and 12 of our regular route buses will begin the first day of school with this new technology installed. Installation on the remaining regular route buses will continue as the year progresses.

During the summer every year, the Georgia Department of Public Safety inspects the entire bus fleet using a 49-item checklist that includes brakes, tires, safety features and lights. All 231 school buses passed the state maintenance/safety inspection completed this summer by the Georgia Department of Public Safety. “Columbia County is known statewide among having the best maintenance record among similar sized bus fleets. Each bus must pass inspection on every item on the list or it is not operational,” said Dewayne Porter, Director of Transportation.

Individual bus routes are mailed to each student’s home with the bus number, bus driver name, and estimated times. School bus drivers will attend Open House at the schools, providing information about routes and furnishing a school bus safety tour for any parents or students who are interested.

Last year, the Transportation Department was supported by 161 bus drivers, 19 bus assistants, 33 special education aides, 5 bus monitors, and 9 mechanics. Columbia County buses traveled approximately 14,000 miles per day, or a yearly total of 2,908,761 miles using 439,660 gallons of diesel fuel.

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