

To the members of the New York City Panel for Education Policy

Introduction: I am ...

As you pass items 31 and 33 for July and August 2025 school bus service, please consider my student's/school's Summer busing experience.

Below are some of the details within each category that applies to us.

- ☐ Issues with vehicle(s):
- ☐ Not receiving a bus route(s) to the correct summer site until [date] :
- ☐ Family time and money invested to transport own student(s):
- ☐ School staff time diverted to efforts to correct issues:
- ☐ Missed hours / days of school due to unavailable or inadequate transportation:
- ☐ Student(s) on the bus for too long in [AM, PM, both AM and PM]:
- ☐ Not given rideshare codes until [date] or not able to use rideshare:
- ☐ Issues with NYC student account transportation page:
- ☐ Issues with other communication [Bus company office, OPT call center]:
- ☐ Other:
- ☐ Good experience:

Additional Facts

- The company involved is..... They will now receive a portion of tonight's total \$89 million summer contract funding despite issues stated above or in the Contracts agenda [Pre-K companies, pages 77-85; school age companies, pages 97-111 https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/data/contracts-agenda/bd18671-0e1c-42f3-9398-e29139f73bdd.pdf?sfvrsn=b81e0f4a_1]
- 12-month services or Extended School Year for students with IEPs are legal mandates. Busing done poorly undermines their civil rights to appropriate education.
- Bus contract terms defined in 1979 do not reflect the 2025 reality that New York City experiences tropical temperatures, high heat and air quality indices and flash flooding which not every yellow bus can withstand.
- Expanded special and early childhood education now includes more riders with small bodies / medical conditions / prescriptions that make safe body temperature a must
- Riders and workers alike suffer from the fact that nothing in the contracts stops companies from putting on the road C class vehicles that lack dual air control
- The penalty for failing to provide requisite climate control is \$400 per K-12 route but only \$85 per pre-K route, with a two-week period to appeal for dismissing the penalty (section 5.10 of bus contracts cited in 2018 investigation <https://nycsci.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/Reports/12-19-Hot-School-Buses-Report.pdf>)
- None of the 2019 student transportation Local Laws require a report on the number of buses with air conditioning capabilities; **July and August were removed from the reporting period after the 2019-2020 school year.** <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/government-reports/office-of-pupil-transportation-bi-annual-reports>

- Currently, summer routes will not pick up students past 3:00 p.m. Thus the “Summer Rising” enrichment hours and full day field trips are only available for students whose families can arrange other means of transportation than the yellow bus.

Going forward

My family and school are counting on you to uphold the resolution which this panel passed by unanimous consent on June 18, 2025. It noted that incomplete specifications and out-of-date standards in the contracts are part of the school bus crisis. We agree with the goals promised that night, which we would summarize as:

1. **Support state Employee Protection Provision legislation** so that school bus contracts can be re-bid with hiring that prioritizes experience – and not provoke another strike, lawsuit, massive layoffs or exponential attrition in this essential workforce; and
2. **Refuse any more five-year emergency extensions of recycled contracts**; i.e. Limit the next contract extension to no more than a year, and use all of that time to
 - (a) inform Albany that our City favors EPP legislation and
 - (b) seek and incorporate priorities for the contract specifications from students, families, educators, advocates and school bus staff, that is, those who have to deal with the day to day results of said contracts.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.