

HB 937

Student Transportation; Innovative Alternatives to School Buses



Bill Patron: Delegate Destiny LeVere Bolling

■ WHAT THE BILL DOES:

States that the intent of the General Assembly is that school boards encourage the implementation of innovative low-cost or no-cost alternatives to transporting students to/from school via school buses, including organizing, encouraging, or supporting students riding bicycles or walking to school.

■ HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

School divisions are encouraged to identify creative solutions to meet their daily transportation needs and the operational demands associated with extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. Utilizing these alternative solutions may assist local school divisions in their efforts to increase attendance and decrease chronic absenteeism.

■ WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) [Safe Routes to School](#) Program.
- VDOT [Bicycle and Pedestrian](#) planning resources
- VDOT [Walk to School Day](#) and Walk to School Month
- [National Center for Safe Routes to School](#)
- [Walk, Bike, & Roll to School](#)
- [U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Programs](#)
- [Walking School Bus, Resources, Guide from Safe Routes to School](#)
- [How to Start a Bike Bus](#)
 - [Additional resource from Edutopia](#)
 - [Fredericksburg City Public Schools Bike Bus](#)
 - [Safe Routes to School – Organizing a Bike Bus Tip Sheet](#)

■ WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- Additional resources and best practices across the nation and Virginia will be shared periodically throughout the upcoming year via the Virginia Education Update, if and when they are available.

■ SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

1. Local school divisions are encouraged to use any flexibility permitted in the current *Code of Virginia* to meet the needs and demands of their students and families.
2. Divisions should also stay abreast of future developments in transportation modernization that may be taking place in the Commonwealth and across the nation.
3. Divisions should hold focus groups with families to identify potential transportation needs of students and families.

4. Divisions should determine if there are any potential creative or innovative solutions that may be able to meet the transit challenges of the school division, a particular school or neighborhood, or individual students and families.
5. Divisions can consult with the Virginia Department of Education team to brainstorm potential solutions as needed.

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