

4. Transportation. Describe how students will be transported to the school pursuant to 14 Del. C. § 508,

SMS will contract bus transportation services to get students to and from school. Such services will be secured using a highly reputable and insured firm that specializes in the student transportation business. Based on the enrollment reported each April to the DDOE, the Operating Board and School Leader will open the bus routes to a public bidding process. Bus routes will be established for those students who live within the district in which SMS is located.

SMS will make every effort to accommodate transportation to and from the school beyond any single school district by establishing central hub points outside of the district for student pickup and drop-off. The School Leader, along with support staff, (starting in 2017-18) will work diligently with the transportation company planners to identify and establish convenient spoke and hub configurations that maximize student access and minimize ride times to the most efficient and cost-effective means of getting students to and from the school campus location.

Appropriate accommodations, as defined in the students' Individual Education Plans (IEP), will be provided to meet the needs of all special needs students requiring transportation. As special transportation needs are identified, the school will work with the students' parents and the transportation services company to ensure compliance with specialized transportation needs. As field trips and other such events are planned, arrangements will be made through the school's contracted transportation services provider.

The school leader will maintain responsibility for oversight of transportation operations. The school leader will ensure appropriate supervision of students before and after school, oversee bus routing and transportation operations, and will schedule and supervise bus safety drills. The school leader will also put into place a transportation contingency plan to address transportation emergencies. This plan will be created in concert with the procedures put in place by the busing company. All bus drivers will be trained in the contingency plan and will have a list of contact names and phone numbers at the school, beginning with the school leader and then down the chain of command that has been established. Once informed of the emergency, in most cases, the school leader will go to the site to coordinate support with other emergency responders and ensure the safety of the students. The lead academic staff member would typically stay at the school to maintain the routine of the school day and to begin the process of notifying parents of the students involved in the situation. In the event of a catastrophic incident, additional staff members from SMS may be called into service at either the school or at the emergency site to assist in securing the safety of all students.

NOTE: SMS is considering the possibility of purchasing its own buses to transport its students, similar to Providence Creek Academy. We are investigating financing through the U.S.D.A. Community Loan Program for these purchases. This effort will likely not occur until Year 3-4 after charter opening and after the renewal period for the charter.