The Department of Transportation organizes and implements pedestrian and school vehicle transport services for AACPS students, with a primary focus upon the operation of school bus services necessary to implement and support the instructional mission.

Recruitment & Retention Initiatives

The following are updates on AACPS’ recruitment & retention initiatives:

- 21 bus drivers are enrolled at present in various stages of the CDL training and certification process, with 5 drivers awaiting the final MVA Road Test prior to being added to the fleet.
- MDOT/MVA will host a “School Bus Drivers Day” on February 5 to assist potential applicants navigate through the CDL process at seven MVA locations across the state.

Regulatory Updates

The following is an update on various regulatory matters as they pertain to pupil transportation services.

The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) is implementing a federal waiver intended to streamline the licensing of new drivers to transport Maryland’s school-aged children to and from school.

Beginning on Thursday, January 20, 2022, commercial driver’s license (CDL) applicants seeking to obtain the school bus endorsement will be allowed to waive a section of the test that requires identification of engine parts. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMSCA) authorized state governments to implement the waiver through March 31, 2022, in response to requests that the agency provide regulatory relief to address the growing shortage of school bus drivers, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

If the modified test is selected and passed, those school bus drivers will only be eligible to drive in the state of Maryland and will have a restriction placed on their license. Applicants must take all other parts of the CDL written and road tests, including the school bus and passenger endorsement tests.

Fuel Prices

The following is an update on the impact of fuel prices on transportation operations.

- The price of fuel utilized by the transportation entities continues to remain elevated for a variety of well publicized reasons. The AAA Self-Service price for transportation related fuel for Maryland stands at $3.557 per gallon as of January 1, 2022.