

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the standing committee on Finance was held on Monday March 17th, 2025 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 45 School St., Brockton, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM with eight members present and President Thompson presiding. Councilors Derenoncourt, Minichiello, and Tavares absent.

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the February 18th, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting.

Accepted and placed on file.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the March 3rd, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting.

Accepted and placed on file.

3. Appointment of the following retired officer as a Special Police Officer: Brian Kirby

Invited: Retired Officer Brian Kirby

Retired Officer Brian Kirby spoke briefly and explained that he just retired this year from the Brockton Police Department and he is still certified until 2026 with the MA Police and just wants to do what he can to help the City of Brockton.

Councilor Asack motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded and carried by a hand vote.

Councilor Asack motioned to take items # 7& 9 out of order and hear them next and was properly seconded the motion carried by a hand vote.

4. Resolve: Whereas: Prostate Cancer occurs in approximately 250,000 new cases every year.

Whereas: According to the American Cancer Society approximately 1 in 41 men will die from the effects of prostate cancer.

Whereas: Prostate cancer disproportionally affects African-American men.

Whereas: African-American men are more than twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than others.

Be it Resolved: To have Stephen Bernard of the Brockton Area Branch of the NAACP appear before a committee of this Council to make a presentation on the efforts of the organization to spread awareness of the efforts to educate the public on the need for early diagnosis and treatment options via the Prostate Cancer Awareness campaign.

Invited: Stephen Bernard and Leona Martin

Stephen Bernard past President of the Brockton area NAACP and member of the health committee stated that Admetech foundation partnered with NAACP and is a prostate cancer research and public awareness foundation located in Boston. Brockton and Plymouth county had the highest mortality rate of prostate cancer in the state. One out of eight men in America are stricken with prostate cancer. Black men are 2.5 times more likely to die from prostate cancer. They know early detection saves lives, if detected early a 5-year survival rate is 100% late detection is only 20%. Age 40 instead of 50 for a PSA screen test most likely to catch it early. From the work they have done in the last 10 years Brockton and Plymouth county are no longer the highest rate. March 27th is prostate cancer awareness day at the State house it will be held virtually.

Leona Martin past Vice President Brockton area NAACP and member of the health committee wants to speak about the prostate cancer equity program also know as the PCE program. Programs mission is to save lives and deliver high quality care to any Massachusetts man age 40 and over. Primary focus is on Black, Hispanic, and Latino men who are at greater risk of prostate cancer. Men who get referred to this program get VIP style help and support.

Councilor Asack motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded.

Councilor Nicastro on the motion that in 2015 the highest mortality rate was in Brockton Plymouth County do you attribute that to lack of early detection? Why do you think that is? Toxins in the environment? What is it?

Stephen Bernard frankly contributed to lack of disparity in health care. Doctors not knowing themselves how important it is for men to be screened early. Prostate cancer is a slow-moving cancer and hard to detect. No mention at age 40 to get a PSA test not until 55- 60 years old was told. Black, Hispanic, and Latino, many people didn't have insurance or primary care doctors so wouldn't have known to be screened for prostate cancer. There are numerous reasons. Talking about disparity from many angles and it impacts everyone's family and friends as well.

Councilor Nicastro is glad the rate has decrease and thanks them for all their work.

The motion carried by a hand vote.

5. Resolve: A RESOLUTION WELCOMING CAPE VERDEAN VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF FROM THE CAPE VERDEAN ASSOCIATION FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, the City of Brockton (hereafter “City”) is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, the City Council is the legislative body of the City;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the increasing number of domestic violence cases in the City of Brockton within the Cape Verdean Community, the City desires to welcome each individual and provide learning experiences in the battle to end intimate partner violence both here and in Cape Verde

WHEREAS, Family and Community Resources, Inc. works collaboratively with the Brockton Police Dept. to assist child, adolescent and adult survivors of intimate partner violence, and hold offenders accountable

WHEREAS, Family and Community Resources, Inc. will provide supervision, shadowing opportunities, community engagement and state-wide learning experiences relative to local, state and federal laws relating to intimate partner violence and human trafficking for three months

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Brockton, Massachusetts, that:

The City extends a warm welcome to Indira Virginia Semedo Mendonca and Isalda Maria De Barros Dos Santos from Praia, Santiago, Cape Verde. To assist them in ending gender-based violence in their country, the city will provide learning opportunities that they may take back to Cape Verde.

Invited: Indira Virginia Semedo Mendonca
Isalda Maria De Barros Dos Santos

Pat Kelleher spoke briefly on this endeavor that they have with several partnering agencies. A year ago, she met with the Cape Verdean Association against gender-based violence they got together and talked about the challenges that Cape Verdean women face in their country. Raise awareness on intimate partner violence and ways to combat. with police and fire departments, city and state leaders, and national leaders they thought about what they can do to help their country. They wanted to bring staff over from their country to learn the laws and programs, and to work collaboratively so they can take that information back to their country. Indira Virginia Semedo Mendonca and Isalda Maria

De Barros Dos Santos have been here for 4 weeks now. Not costing the City of Brockton nothing. Councilor Rodrigues and Teixeira, she thanks them for their help on this.

Isalda Maria De Barros Dos Santos and Indira Virginia Semedo Mendonca stated it was a pleasure to be here and thank them for all the help and support that has been given to bring back to their country.

Councilor Asack motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded and carried by a hand vote.

6. Ordered: That the following named sum be and the same is hereby transferred as the same was submitted by the Mayor as follows:

Transfer of: \$200,000.00

FROM: TREASURER - DEBT SERVICE	\$150,000.00
ASSESSOR – PERSONAL SERVICES NON-OT	\$50,000.00

TO: ASSESSOR – PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$200,000.00
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Invited: CFO Troy Clarkson
Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell

Chairman of Assessors John O'Donnell explained briefly that this transfer is needed to begin the fiscal year 2026 5-year certification program which is required by Bureau of local assessment. They are required to inspect every personal property account and do an interior inspection and visual inspection on every real property.

Councilor Farwell motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded and carried by a hand vote.

7. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$15,000.00.

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION	\$15,000.00
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TO: PARKS AND RECREATION	\$15,000.00
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Invited: CFO Troy Clarkson
Superintendent of Parks Tim Carpenter

Superintendent of Parks Tim Carpenter explained briefly that this is a \$15,000 state earmark grant garnered by State Representative Michelle Dubois. There is no match required. This will be utilized at the Gilmore School specifically target is the fields behind the school.

Councilor Lally motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded.

Councilor Nicastro on the motion \$15,00 how are you going to stretch it and what are you planning on doing to these fields?

Superintendent of Parks Tim Carpenter stated \$15,000 is terrific but they are not going to get much. This Friday was the deadline for youth permits and they didn't receive one from Brockton Boxers the team that plays back there. He reached out and unfortunately, they won't be utilizing it this year, doesn't mean they won't make some improvements back there. It needs work, needs to be over seeded and some infrastructure work. That is his focus.

The motion carried by a hand vote.

8. Ordered: That the City Council authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of the total grant funds in the amount of \$62,461.00.

FROM: OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS' BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE \$62,461.00

TO: BROCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT \$62,461.00

Invited: CFO Troy Clarkson
Police Chief Brenda Perez and/or designee(s)

BPD Grant Writer Lugenia Lopes explained that that FY24 Edward Burn Justice Program Assistance Grant is a grant that is applied through the Plymouth County and they are the subrecipient of this grant. She thanked the Plymouth county commissioners and their administrator Frank Basler who handles their application. They have always been a great support of their department. Grant will be utilized for departmental equipment and there is no match required.

Councilor Lally motioned to recommend favorably. Motion was properly seconded and carried by a hand vote.

9. Resolve: Be it resolved by the Brockton City Council to invite Troy Clarkson, Chief Financial Officer and Priya Tahiliani, Superintendent of the Brockton School Department, to appear before the Finance Committee to discuss and provide an update on the current status of the transportation budget and general update for the transportation department.

Invited: CFO Troy Clarkson

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani and/ or any
Staff deemed appropriate

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani had a presentation on the current status of the transportation budget. She stated that regarding the transportation system it has been both challenging and flawed. She will explain what they have uncovered so far and what they have been able to institute that are leading to modest improvements. (see attached presentation)

Councilor Rodrigues: When shifting the tiers do you know by any chance what the cost savings would be?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Knows it will save 11 private vans but doesn't have that information at the moment but can get that for him.

Councilor Rodrigues: Is there a state law that requires them to transport preschoolers?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: They are required to provide transportation for K-6 students only. Pre-K students who require door to door have IEP services so not for all Pre-K.

Councilor Rodrigues: Are you part of the negotiations for the Bus Drivers contracts?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Yes, she will be part of the negotiation's strategy sessions.

Councilor Rodrigues: Have there been any discussions on getting the State to help out with the out of district transportation?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Yes, the conversations are happening in two tracks. First is advocating for greater reimbursements back to all of the districts. Second some of the practicality of the transportation that they are providing when it comes to out of district.

Councilor Lally: Is content to hear that the Superintendent of schools might not be before the council asking for the full \$5 million for transportation sounds like it will be more like 2 million.

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Doesn't want to be too optimistic and say they won't come back, but they do have some options and would be wonderful if they did not have too.

Councilor Lally: Was taken back by bus tracking \$18 a month 135 buses, did the math out an its not as expensive as he thought compared to what it provides us. Likes the

concept of the overbilling penalty built in to any kind of contract. Cori checks for external van drivers they have all been completed?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Correct.

Councilor Lally: Who has access to dashboard?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Mayor, School Committee Vice Chair, and CFO have access. The whole School Committee will have access and be trained on how to use it.

Councilor Lally: Talked about maybe having a 4th tier?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: They did look into it and also moving all Pre-K to tier three. What they decided was moving Barret Russel to tier 2 being the most economical.

Councilor Farwell: Other school districts are they in house or private vendor?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Worcester is larger than us and they are in house. Lynn also in house which is very comparable to us. A lot of districts are interested in bringing it in house. Framingham is going in house.

Councilor Lally stepped out.

Councilor Farwell: Do we ever do a passenger count?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Doesn't have the answer to his question but its something they are looking into.

Councilor Griffin: Is the Transportation Director going to take some of the burden off of you?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: Yes

Councilor Griffin: GPS is it on all private vans?

Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani: No, just on our buses. Something they are looking into when they bid though. They have cameras inside and outside of our buses.

Councilor Asack: Hopes we can keep the in-house buses she was a big advocate on it. Takes pride in seeing Brockton on the side of the buses.

Councilor Teixeira stepped out.

Councilor Nicastro: Appreciates Transportation update but got the presentation very late in the day and appreciates the Superintendent coming back probably the second Fincom meeting in April to digest all the information there's a ton and ask more relevant questions.

Councilor Rodrigues stepped out.

Councilor Nicastro motioned to postpone to second Finance meeting in April and was properly seconded.

Councilor Lally stepped in.

Councilor Teixeira stepped in.

Councilor Rodrigues stepped in.

Councilor Thompson: thanked the superintendent for coming in tonight and for all the information that was given from the presentation, also thanked School Committee members that were in the chambers

The motion carried by a hand vote.

Councilor Rodrigues and President Thompson Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40PM

BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION UPDATE



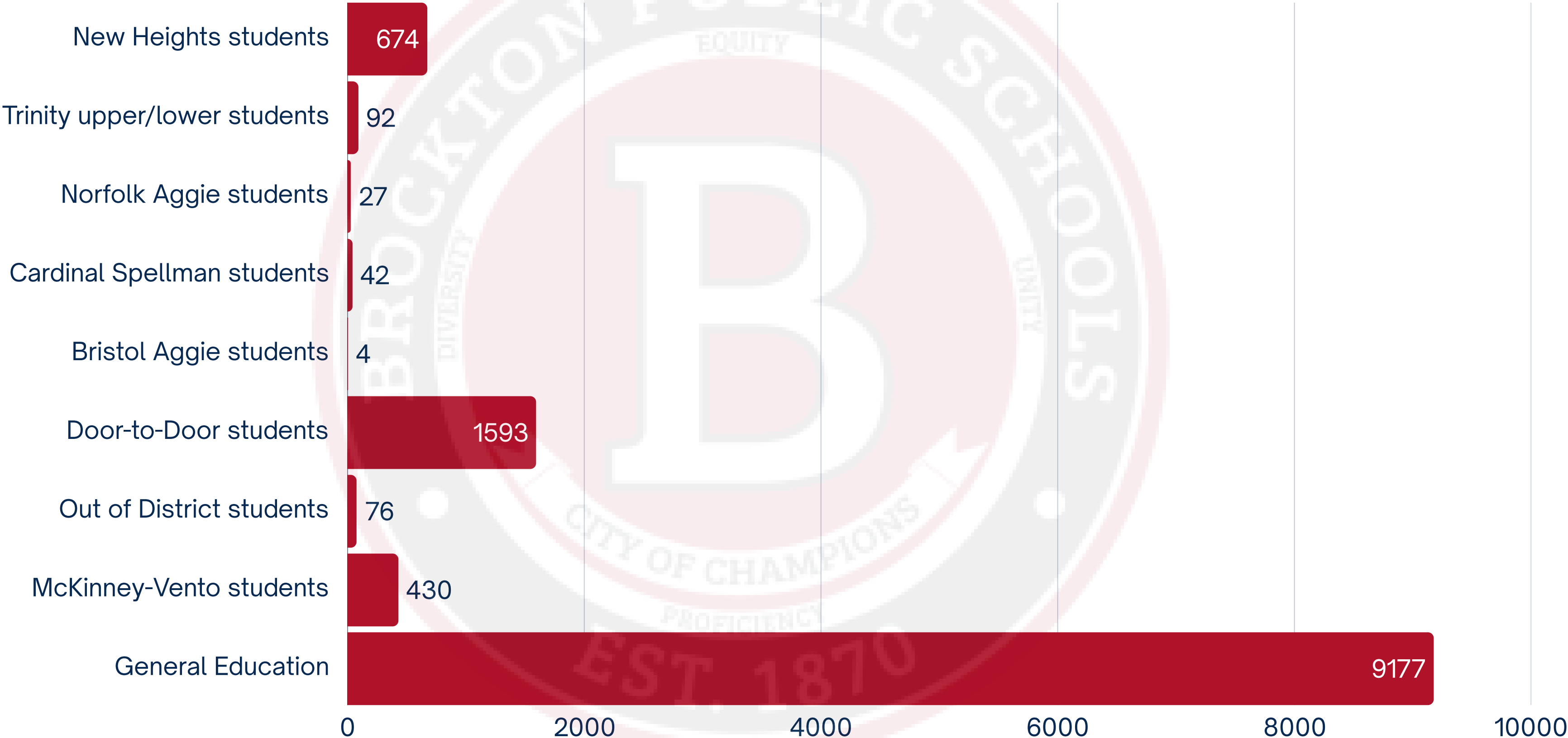
AUG 2024

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Prepared By:
Dr. Priya Tahiliani

MARCH 17, 2025

Students Transported



Data provided by Transportation Department as of March 10, 2025

Deep Dive: Transportation Vendors

#	L.O.A. Uploaded Munis	SUPER Signature	MAYOR Signature	Updated LOA	Expiration of C.O.I.	C.O.I.	COI: INSURED + CERT HOLDER	Rates and Routes Appendix	Active Inacti
	Y	Y	Y	Y	2/2/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
	Y	Y	Y	Y	12/19/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	2/2/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	10/15/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	8/18/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	4/24/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	12/1/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	9/23/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	7/1/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	9/18/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	11/10/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	7/31/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	10/10/2024	Y		Y	ACTIV
			Y	Y	9/5/2025	Y	Y	Y	ACTIV



Reviewing
all files



Uploading
Documents into
Munis



Adding
Mayor's
Signature

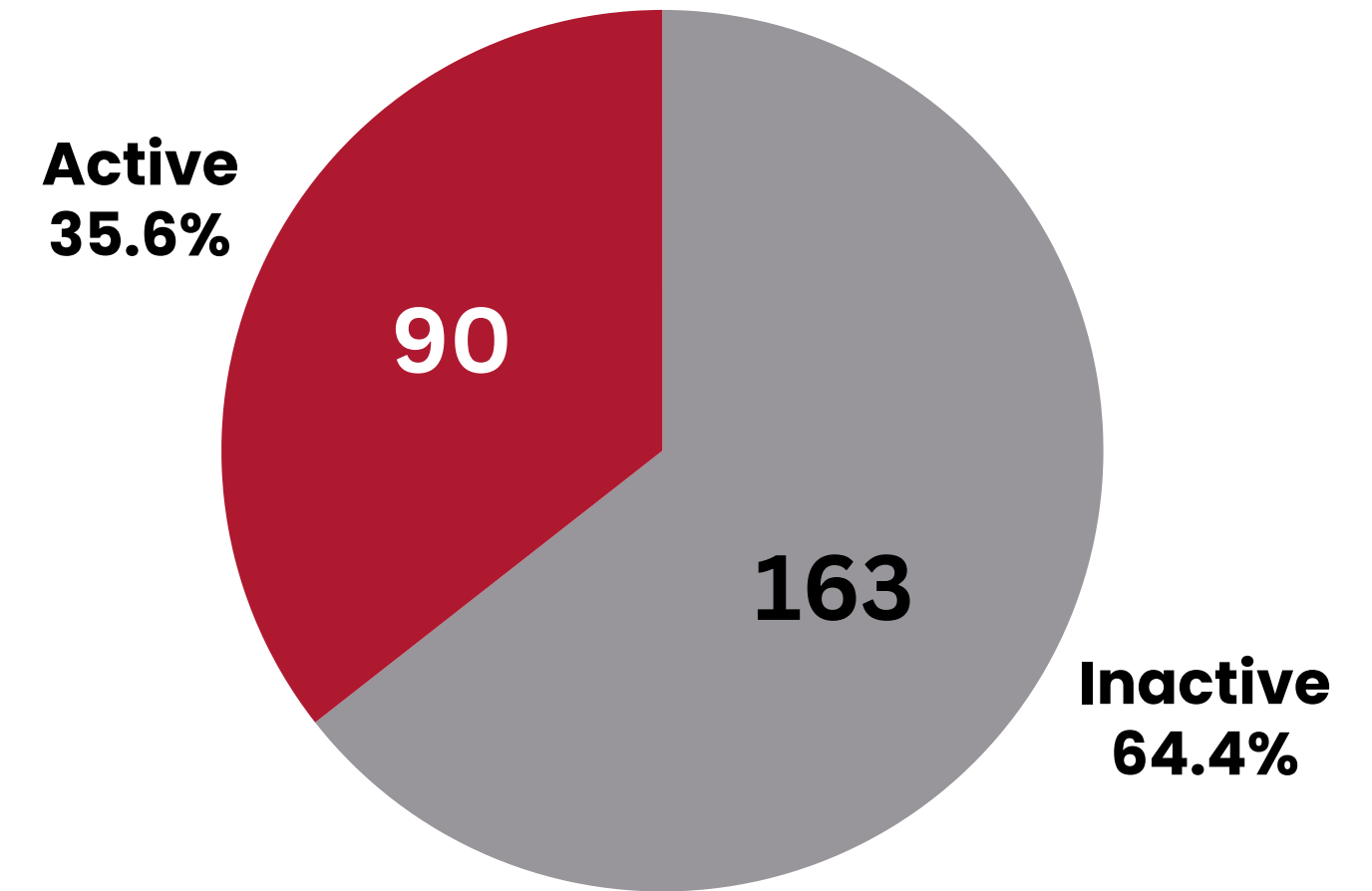
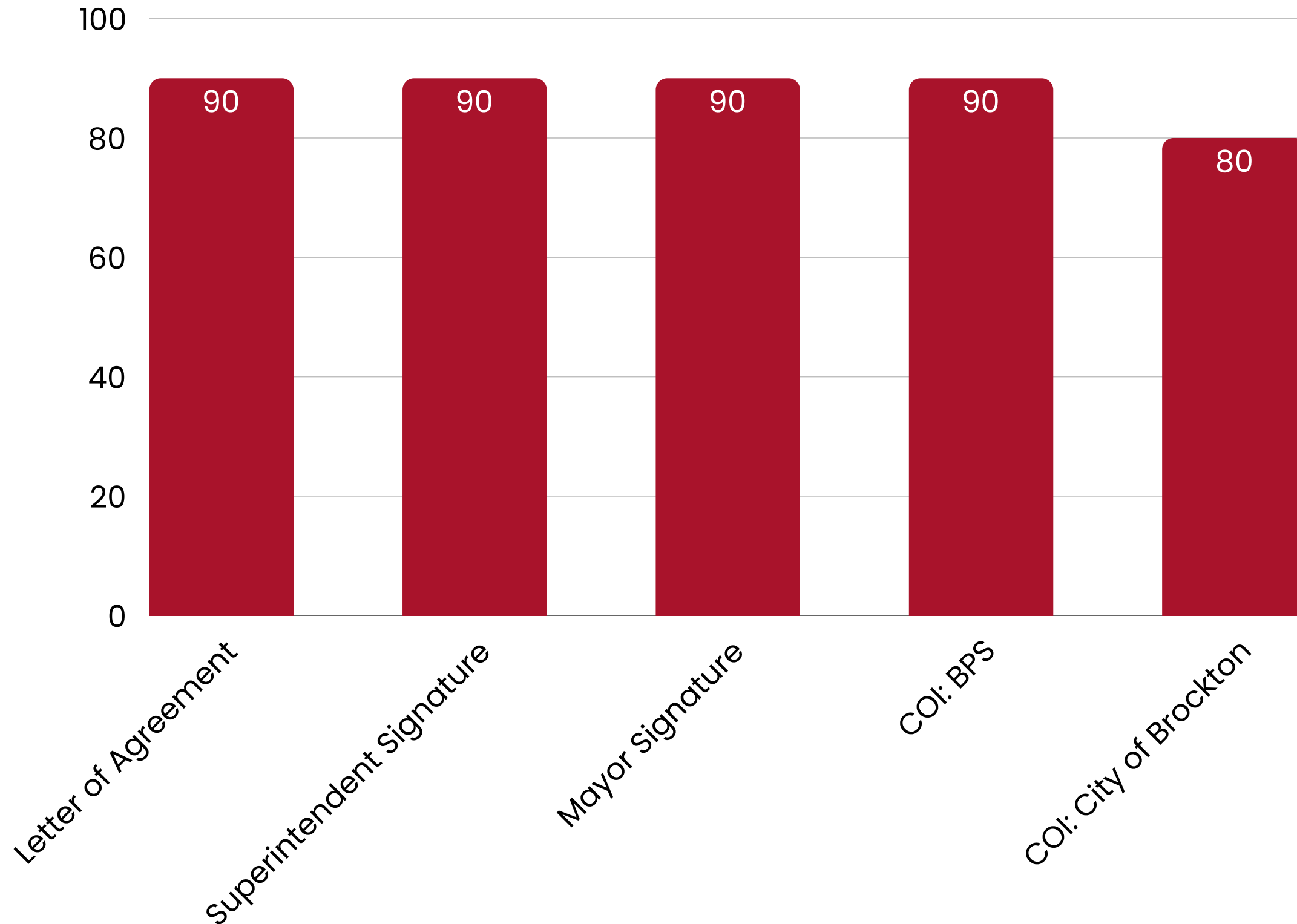


Creating
Tracker



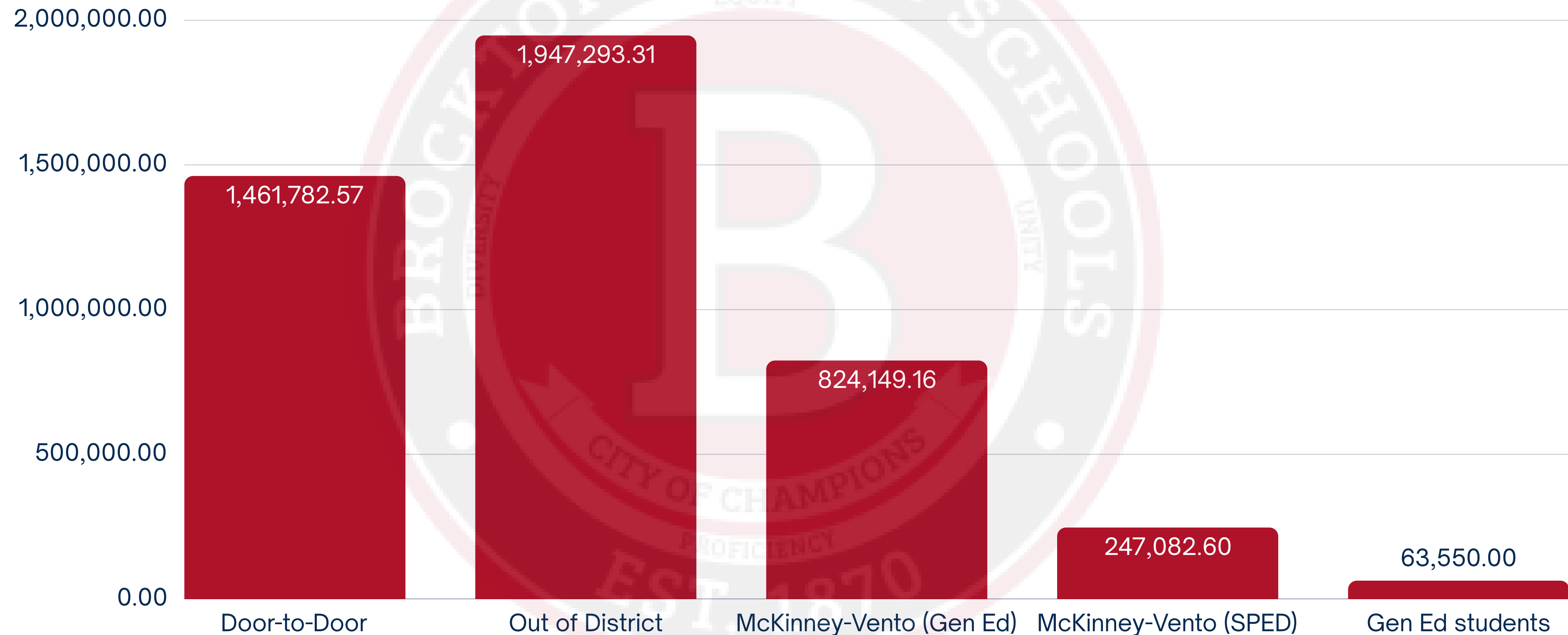
Adding
Routes and
Rates onto
Agreements

Review of Transportation Vendors



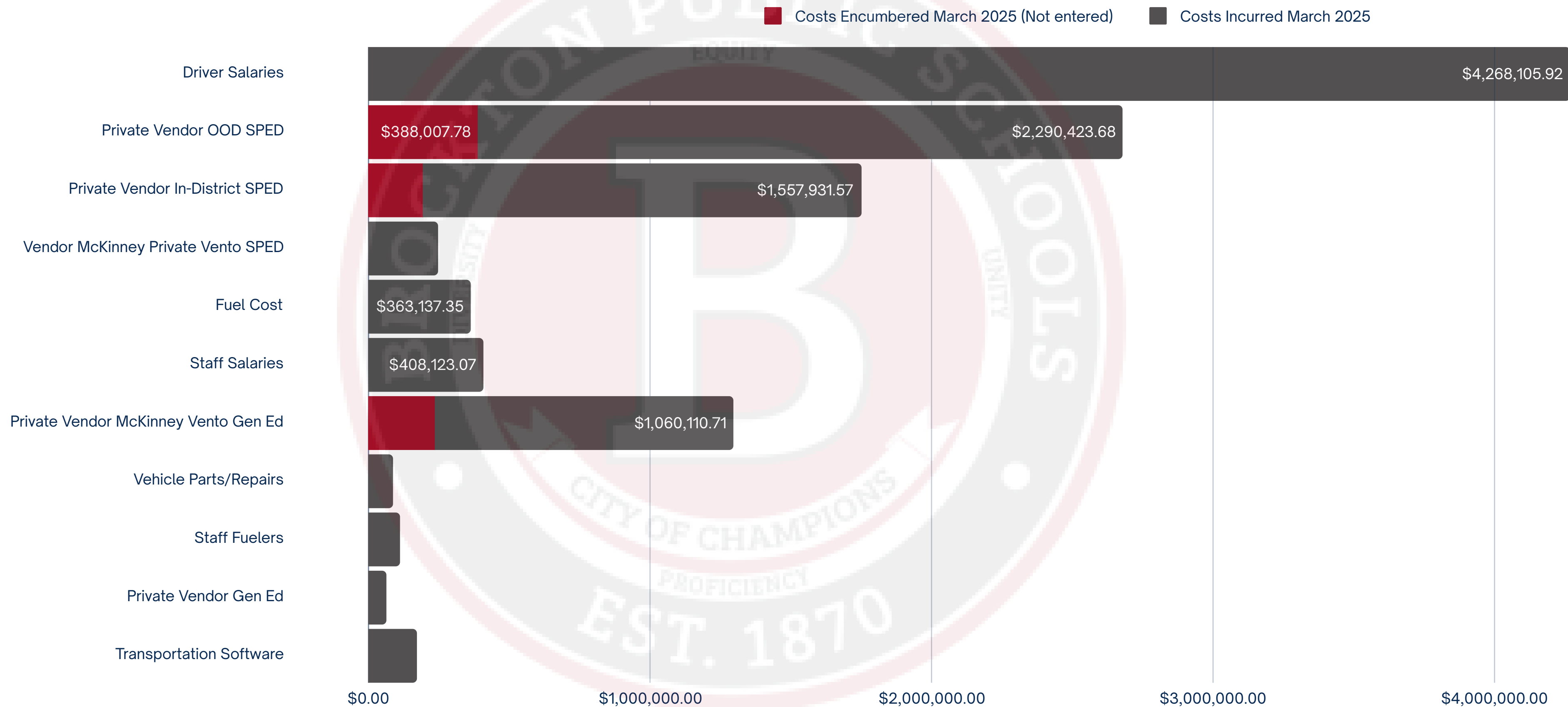
Upon further review of transportation vendors, we found that we have a total of 253 vendors, but only 90 vendors were active while 163 vendors were inactive, which means that they are currently not transporting students.

Private Transportation Costs Incurred



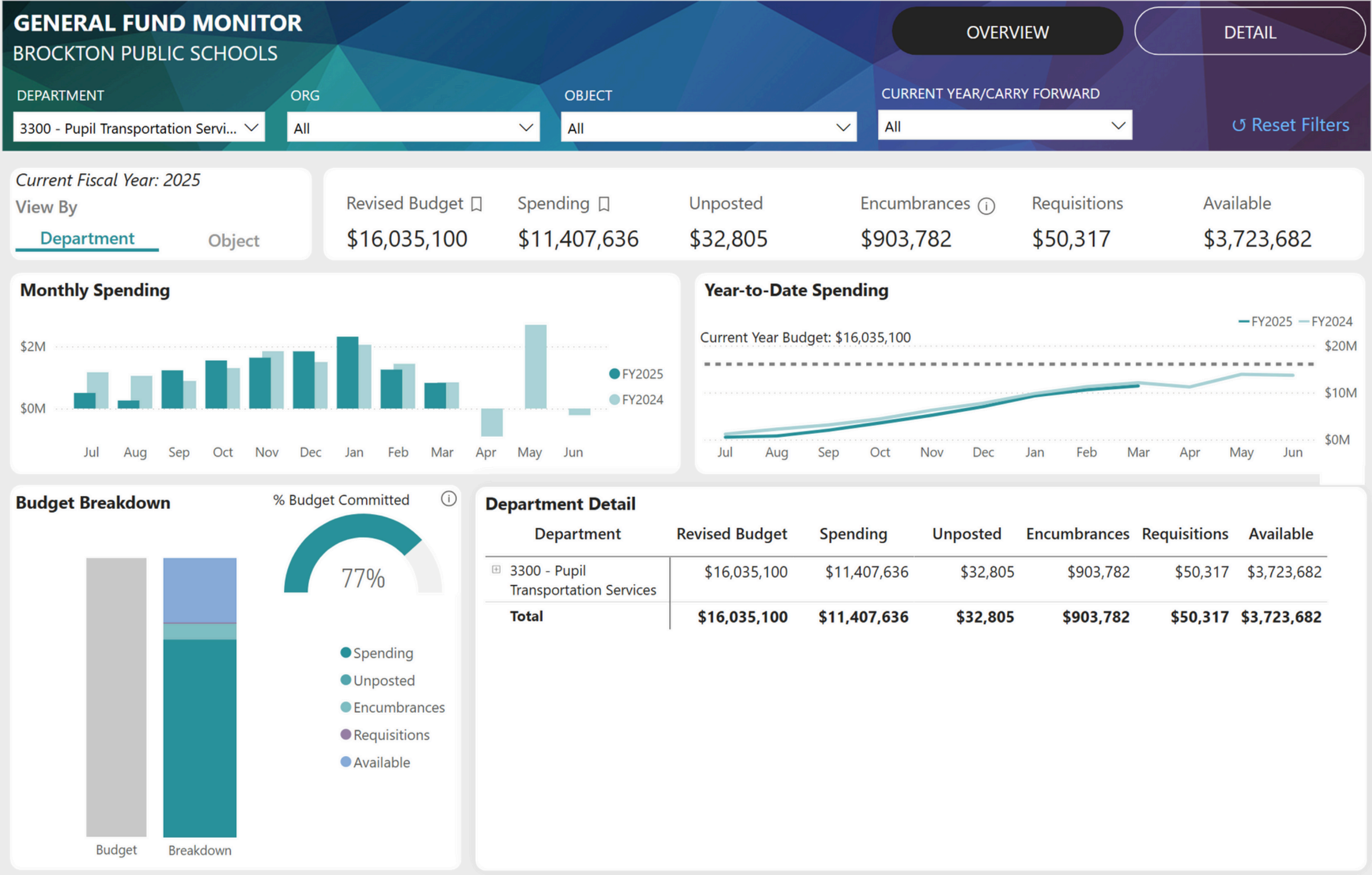
Data provided by Transportation Department as of March 10, 2025

Cost Analysis of Actual Spent as of March 11, 2025

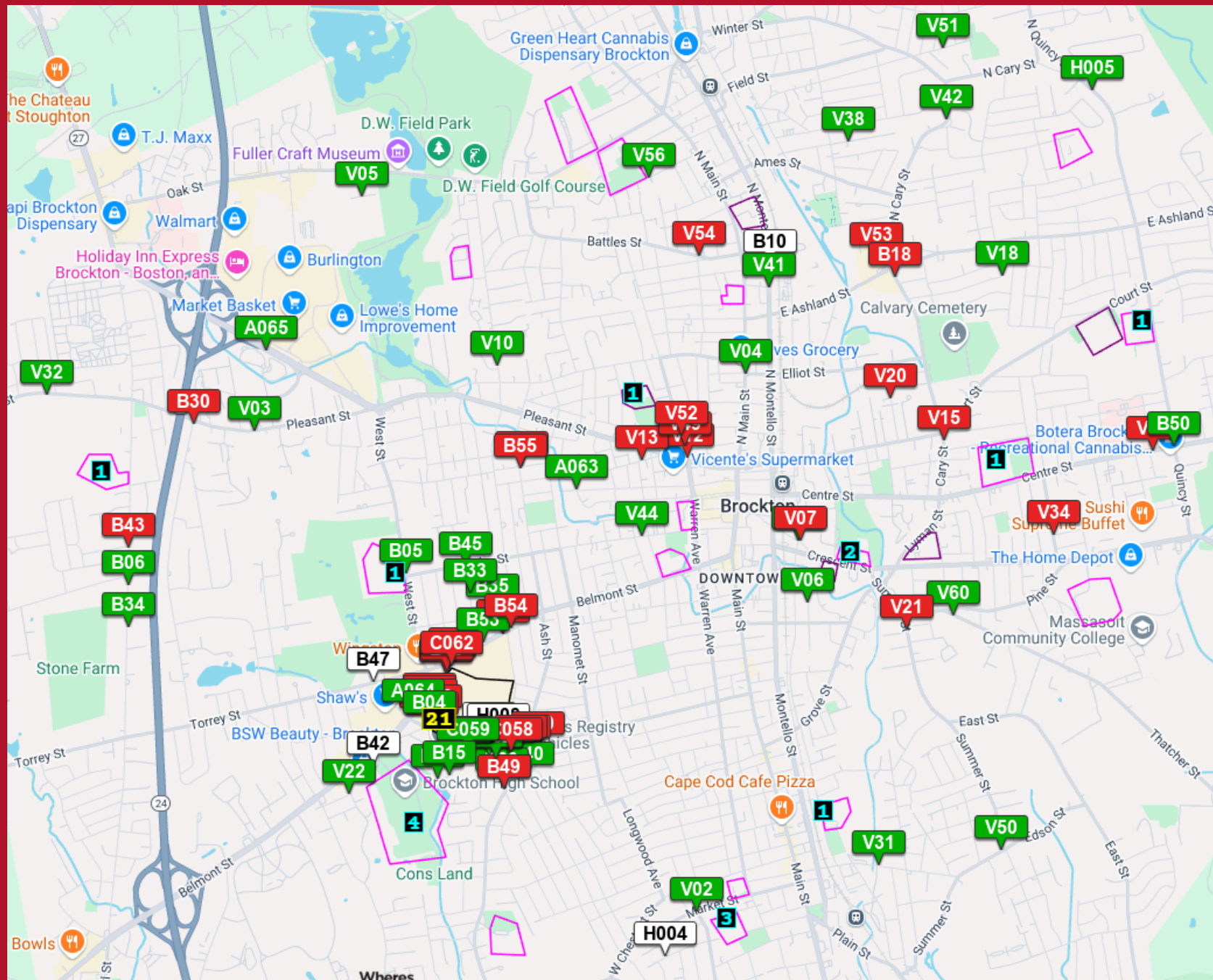


Data provided by Transportation Department as of March 11, 2025

OA Dashboard
for
Transportation



BUS SOFTWARE: TRIP SPARK



1



HARDWARE STATUS

- 135 buses have GPS, tablets, and combo readers (scan students in and out) installed, verified through the system.
- 124 buses are actively reporting data and appear to be fully operational.
- Tablets are still receiving updates, and most communicated with the server on Friday, March 7, 2025.

2



TIME AND ATTENDANCE

- Allows drivers and bus aides to clock in/out via tablets.
- Time tracking was originally purchased to integrate with Munis so bus monitor and driver sign-in/out can automatically be integrated into Munis.

3



STUDENT TRACKING

- The system is still operational and was able to provide real-time bus locations.
- Student ID verification and the parent app are still actively reporting data, we are just not using the app (see cost).

4



COST AND IMPLEMENTATION

- \$18 per bus per month for all software features (turn-by-turn navigation, time tracking, student scanning, and parent tracking app).
- 135 tablets were originally purchased, and approximately 124 are in good shape, regularly sending data.
- Any buses added after the initial 135 will require additional hardware (\$1,000 per bus).

5

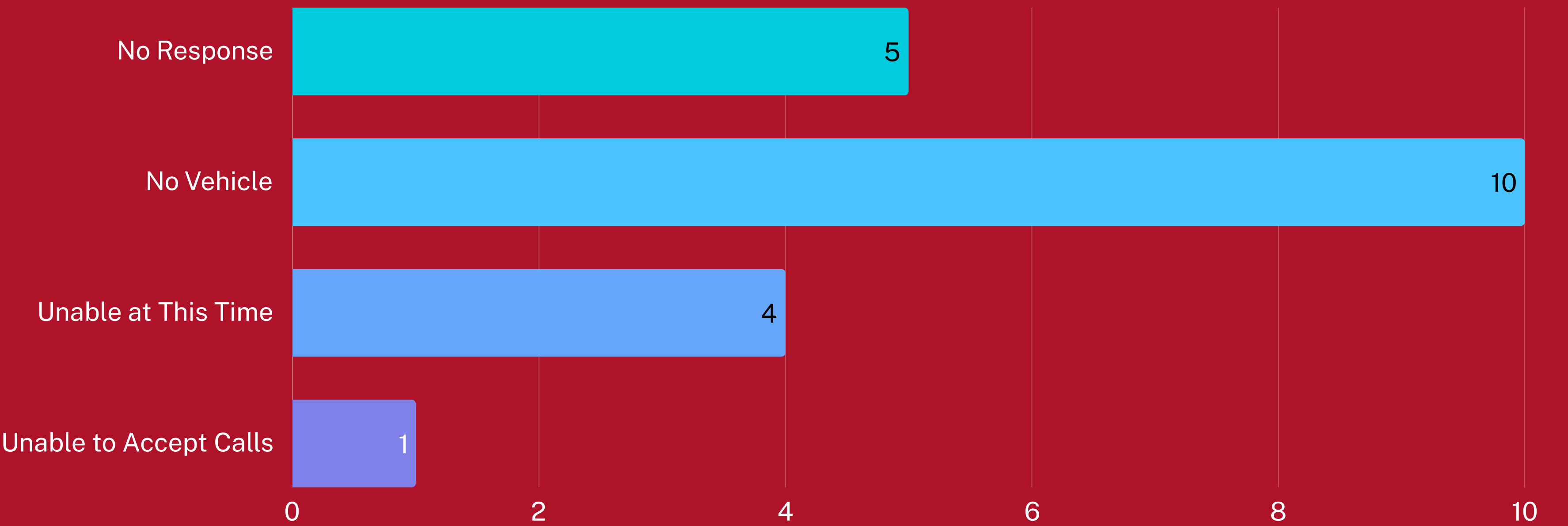


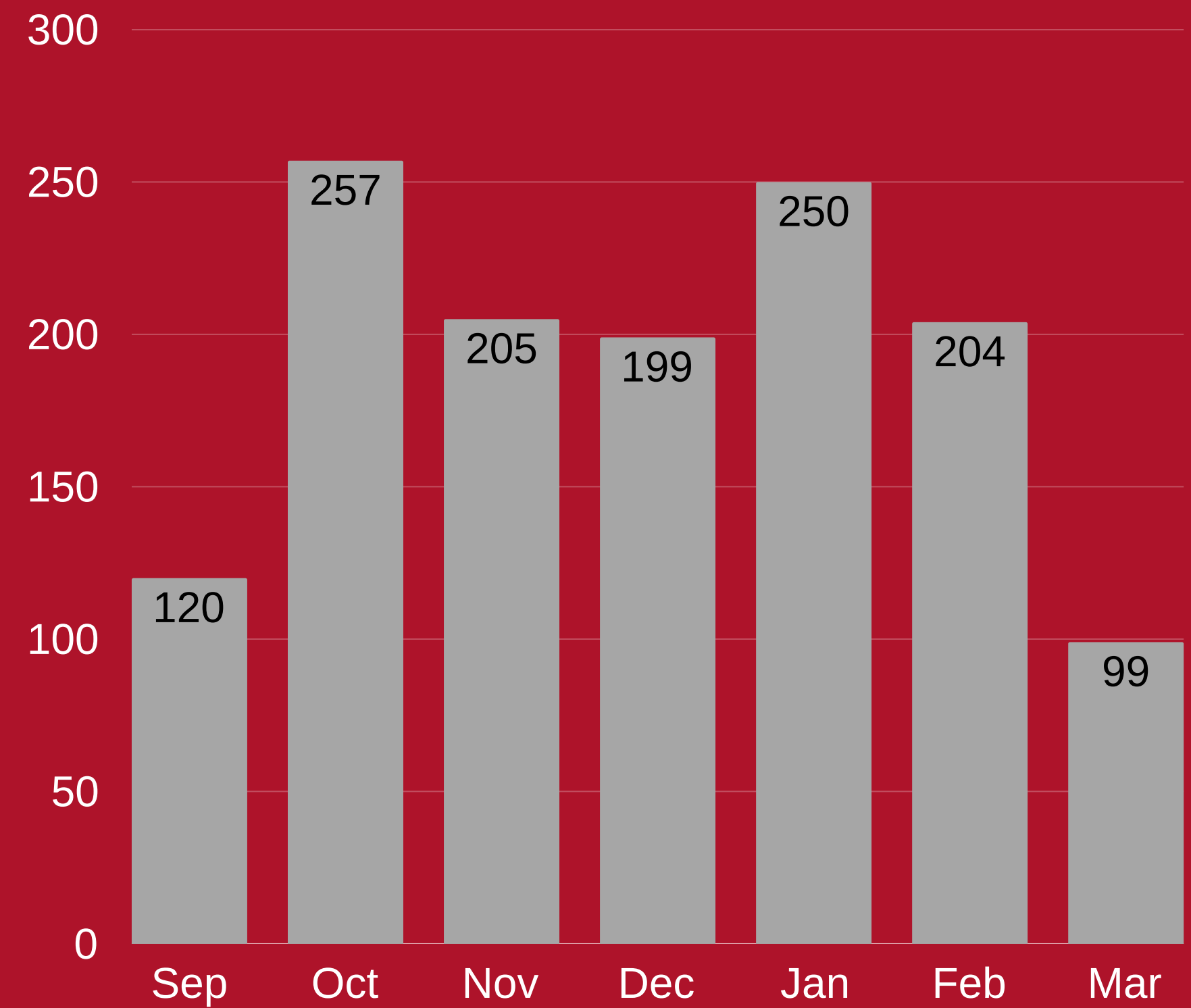
TRAINING AND SUPPORT

- Training is free if we internally provide a train-the-trainer model.
- The instructional technology team can handle training internally if needed allowing for an efficient and cost-effective rollout.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR PARENTS

- 20 homeless families that BPS is currently transporting were randomly contacted to inquire about their willingness to receive mileage reimbursement for transporting their homeless student on their own.
- For students with disabilities, at the team meeting, if it is determined that the student does require transportation, the team engages in a discussion regarding whether the parent would prefer to transport their child or if the district will be providing the specialized transportation





**Number of Absences by Month
During School Year 2024–2025**

BOLSTERING DRIVER ATTENDANCE

We are exploring midyear incentives to increase the attendance for the last few months of schools to minimize our dependence on private transportation vendors.

Buses and Drivers	121
Driver Absence	15
Buses Used for Field Trips	2
Private Vendors Used to Cover Absences	7
Buses Late for Pick Up or Drop Off	5
Unforeseen Issues	2

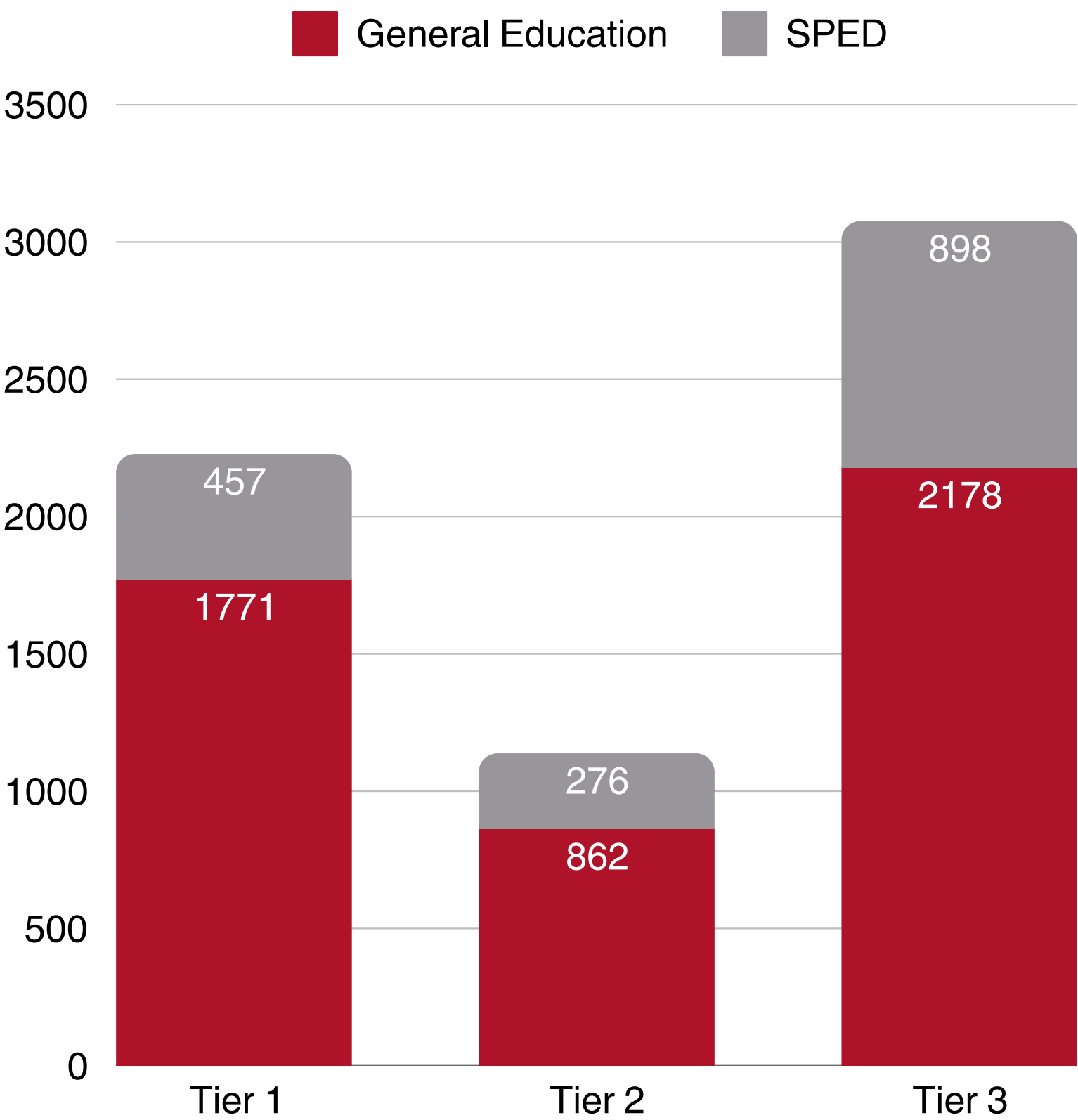
Transportation operations on February 27, 2025.

PROPOSAL FOR MOVING BARRETT RUSSELL TO TIER II

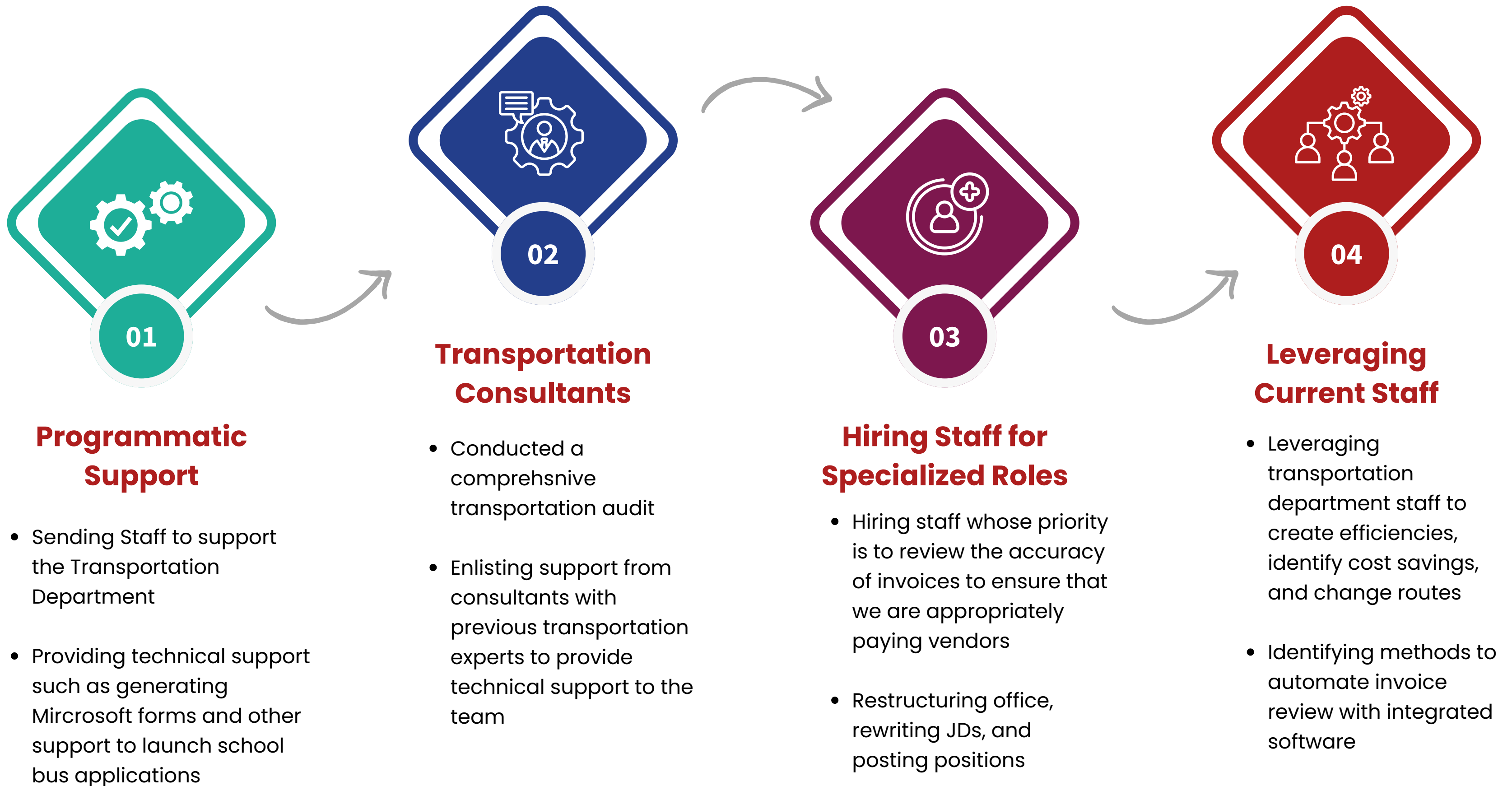
- All other PreK would stay on Tier III
- Originally moved to Tier III for the purposes of common planning time amongst PreK teachers around the district
- To preserve PreK districtwide common planning time, during the 4 early release days, all PreK classrooms throughout the district, including Barrett Russell, would be off for the entire day
 - 8:15 AM -10:45 AM: Teachers begin at 8:00 AM
 - 12:00 PM-2:30 PM: Teachers end at 2:45 PM

Transferring Routes from Tier 3 to Tier 2

9:00 AM Arrival	7 Routes
12:45 PM Arrival	20 Routes
11:30 AM Dismissal	21 Routes
3:15 Dismissal	7 Routes
Total Routes	85 Routes




HUMAN RESOURCES & EXPERTISE



ADDITIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

Began the first random private transportation vendor safety and security check at the Hancock School.

Created a Microsoft form to obtain responses to competitive bidding in order to start compiling data to eventually conduct analysis.



Brockton Public Schools
Vendor Transportation Checklist

Vendor Name: _____ Driver's License # _____
Driver's Name _____ Make: _____
Model & Year: _____
Mileage: _____

	Yes	No	Additional Information
Company Name on Vehicle			
Registration			
7D License			
Pupil Vehicle Verification			
Visible School Bus Sign			
Proof of Insurance			

Identification Verification:
Cori and Fingerprint's to be verified at the Transportation Office
RMV Driving record after fingerprints

Name of Verifying Employee: (Print) _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

1. Transportation Company Name *

Enter your answer

2. Transportation Company Phone Number *

The value must be a number

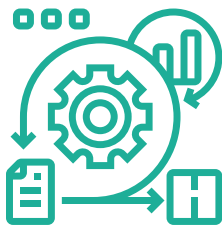
3. Name of Person to Contact *

Enter your answer

4. Contact Person's Email Address *

Enter your answer

Reviewing Invoices



Methodology

- Download all invoices from Munis starting with the highest paid vendor
- Cross reference relevant school calendars
- Confirm student attendance to ensure days billed were accurate
- Check to ensure accuracy of billing, i.e. costs were added correctly



Findings

- Students were billed for inaccurate placements (unless name was misspelled)
- Invoiced amount totals were incorrect
- Students were billed when they were absent
- Some vendors billed weekly rather than monthly
- Invoices did not include all requirements from vendor memorandum



Considerations

- Identify Highest route rates and to send out for rebidding
- Reconcile students who are being transported on the same days to the same schools at different rates by different vendors
- Need to review all invoices as far back as 2022 and add penalties for invoices that are incorrectly submitted

Findings from Review of Highest Paid Vendor

- We found that 3 students were absent on a total of 13 days over the 7-month billing period that was reviewed.
- We were also billed for a monitor for two of the students for 10 days.
- There are some spelling errors in student names which caused additional time needed for review.
- This vendor submits invoices weekly rather than monthly which creates additional time necessary to input and review invoices.
- Vendor was paid approximately 276k to transport 11 students via 9 routes.

REBIDDING ROUTES BY OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT

Out of District Placement	Student	Address	Vendor	Cost Per Day
Out of District Placement 1	Student 1	Litchfield St	Vendor 1	\$343.73
Out of District Placement 1	Student 2	Deanna Rd	Vendor 3	\$200.00
Out of District Placement 1	Student 3	Copeland St	Vendor 3	\$200.00
Out of District Placement 1	Student 4	Centre St	Vendor 4	\$100.00
Out of District Placement 1	Student 5	Albion St	Vendor 2	\$300.00
Out of District Placement 1	Student 6	Rockland St	Vendor 2	\$300.00
Out of District Placement 1	Student 7	Mayotte Cir	Vendor 1	\$493.93

- Considerations
 - Placement is approximately 20 miles from Brockton
 - One student requires to be transported individually
 - Explore reaching out to the vendor that is the lowest, whose rate is \$100 per day, to determine whether they have additional available vehicles
- Options to Rebid
 - Option 1: Total of two routes. One route for all students except Student 6 who requires to be transported individually.
 - Option 2: Bid out 1 route to transport Student 6. Bid out second route to transport Student 7. Bid out third route for the remaining students.

EVEN IF THERE WERE 3 VENDORS TRANSPORTING THE 7 STUDENTS, THE RATE PER DAY WOULD NOT EXCEED \$1,937.66 PER DAY.

REBIDDING ROUTES BY OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT

Vendor	Morning Pick Up Time	Cost Per Student Per Day	Cost Per Monitor Per Day (if monitor is required)
Vendor 1	6:50	\$ 300 for all students	\$0
Vendor 2	640am	\$295 total	\$85
Vendor 3	Start pick up at 6h30	\$300/day for all together	\$70/day.
Vendor 4	6:30AM	\$50	\$75
Vendor 5	6:50A	\$60	None
Vendor 6	6:45 am	\$75.00	0
Vendor 7	0600	294	0
Vendor 8	7am	295.95	0
Vendor 9	6 am	298	\$50
Vendor 10	7	All for 249	60
Vendor 11	6:15am	All for for 300 \$	100\$
Vendor 12	Starting around 6: am	Like you said \$300 total	Na
Vendor 13	Between 6-6:30 AM	\$53/ student for 5	0
Vendor 14	6:30	\$268	None
Vendor 15	6:30am	\$300.00 combine	\$100.00
Vendor 16	6:30 A.M	295.99	Do I need a monitor
Vendor 17	6:30 AM	300 for all students	N/A if monitor 100 a day
Vendor 18	6:00 AM	\$ 280 per day	n/a
Vendor 19	6:00am	All for \$300	\$75

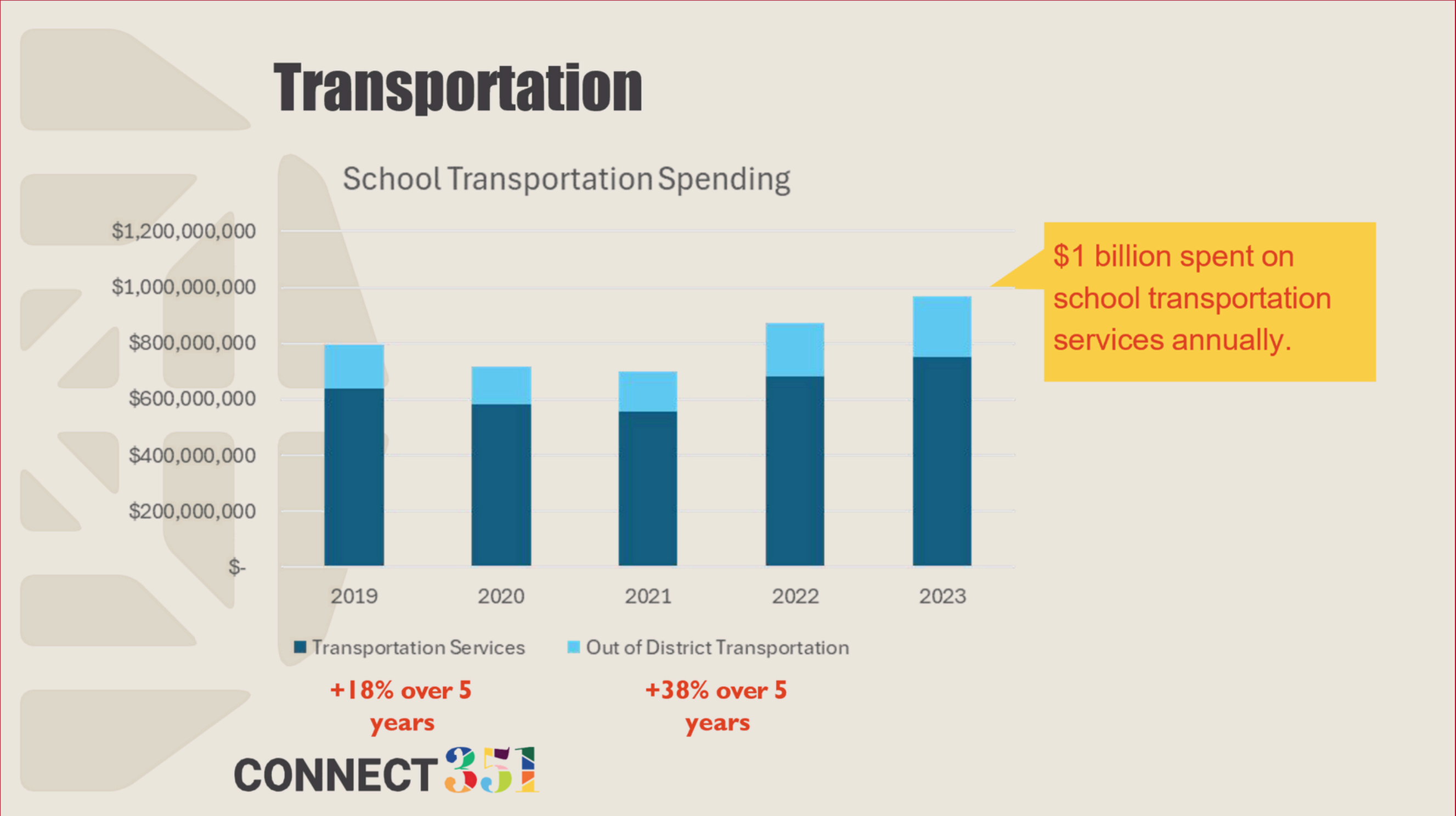
Vendor	Available Start Date	Morning Pick Up Time	Cost Per Student Per Day	Cost Per Monitor Per Day (if monitor is required)
Vendor 1	Now	7	140	50
Vendor 2	3/12/25	7am	120	0
Vendor 3	Asap	645am	141.50	N/a
Vendor 4	03/13/2025	6:45am	\$150	\$0
Vendor 5	03/12/2025	6:30- 7:00AM	\$100	N/A
Vendor 6	Any	Any	Not available	80
Vendor 7	03/12/2025	0600	147	0
Vendor 8	Asap	6:45	\$150	None
Vendor 9	3/12/25	6:25	\$200	\$60
Vendor 10	Asap	6am	300	100
Vendor 11	03/13/25	6:20 am	\$150.00	0
Vendor 12	3/12/25	6:30	\$125	\$75
Vendor 13	MONDAY through F	6AM	\$140	\$25 an hour
Vendor 14	Asap	7A	\$139	None
Vendor 15	ASAP	7;00AM	\$301	\$108

Due to rebidding, we are able to secure transportation for \$349 per day instead of paying \$1,937.66 per day. This results in a savings of \$1,586.66 per day or a total of \$7,943.30 per week or \$31,773.20 per month!

NEXT STEPS

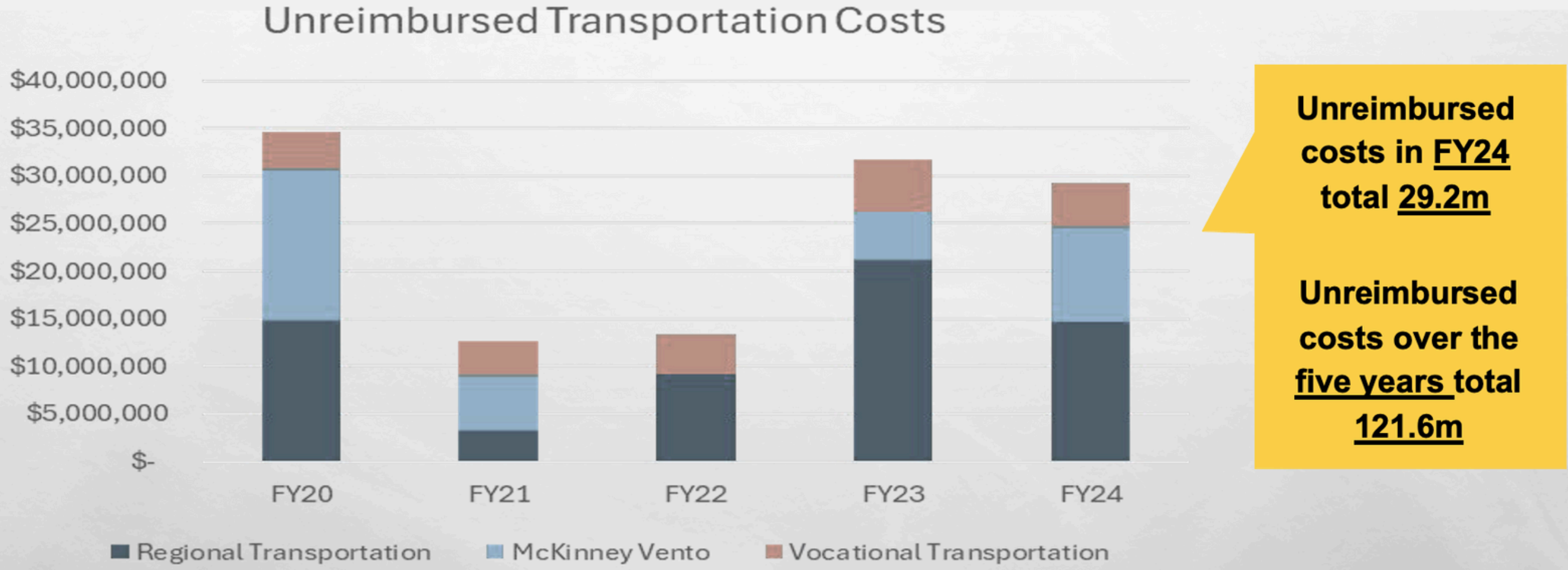
IMMEDIATE		SHORT TERM		LONG TERM	
	Sunseting transportation that is not required, such as the New Beginnings Program		Revise the memo for transportations to provide more beneficial terms to BPS		Reassess the organizational chart of the Transportation Department
	Continue conducting invoice review to ensure billing is accurate		Send out transportation Invitation for Formal Bids		Use technology for Parent Information Center to submit requests that results in automatic bid
	Rebid routes based on Out of District School Assignment		Bolster bus driver attendance		Use Versatrans software and the invoicing functionality that is aligned to Munis
	Rebid routes by highest route per student		Negotiate collective bargaining agreement		Use bus tablets to collect bus monitor and driver attendance
	Identify ways to leverage buses instead of using private vendor transportation		Establish foundation for data and recordkeeping		Fully launch find my bus applications for parents, guardians and families
	Conduct safety and security checks at random for private transportation		Establish system to review and prevent any duplicate invoice payments		Making programmatic shifts to bolster the capacity of our buses in relation to trips needed by Tier

TRANSPORTATION COSTS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



TRANSPORTATION COSTS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENTS



Source: Connect351

NET SCHOOL SPEND

Minimum amount a school district must spend on education, ensuring a certain level of funding. NSS is calculated by adding Chapter 70 aid (state funding) to the required local contribution. Includes actual school operating expenditures and the school portion of shared municipal costs.



NON NET SCHOOL SPEND

School budget expenditures that are not considered towards meeting the state's Net School Spending requirement.

- ◆ Student Instructional Services, Materials, and Equipment: Expenses related to teaching services, educational materials, and classroom equipment.
- ◆ Student Support Services: Includes attendance monitoring, health services (excluding the cost of food), and school security measures.
- ◆ Student Activities: Funding for extracurricular activities such as athletics, performance groups, and clubs.
- ◆ Operation and Maintenance of School Facilities: Costs for the upkeep and routine maintenance of school buildings and equipment.
- ◆ Non-discretionary expenses that count toward NSS: Administrative Services for the cost of municipal accounting, auditing, central purchasing, employee benefits administration, and other financial services supporting the school department, Employee Benefits cost for pensions, pension assessments and insurance premiums for active and retired school department employees, direct premiums for school buildings, grounds, equipment and liability coverage, Short Term Debt Service (RANS) proration of the actual interest paid for revenue anticipation notes (RANs) to support current school year operations.
- ◆ Expenditures that can be charged to NSS with School Committee approval: Library Services, Health Services, School Security Services, snow removal on school grounds, major renovation and repair work if the cost per project is less than \$150,000, and expenditures made under the terms of a lease or rental contract undertaken at the request of the school district for buildings or non-instructional equipment.

- ◆ Cost of transporting students to and from school.
- ◆ Crossing guard duty.
- ◆ Community Schools.
- ◆ Most capital facility costs.
- ◆ Adult education costs.
- ◆ Expenditures from grant and revolving funds.
- ◆ Short Term Debt Service - A proration of the actual interest paid on bond anticipation notes (BANs) for bonds and loans used to finance school building maintenance or construction, or textbooks or educational equipment.
- ◆ Other Fixed Charges - Cost of bank charges for school department accounts, salaries of crossing guards, cost of public safety inspections, and the cost of claiming Medicaid reimbursements.
- ◆ Fixed Assets - Includes major renovation and repair work (when the cost of the project is \$150,000 or more) and bond payments.

Appendix

Eligibility for Specialized Transportation: Special Education

The receipt of specialized transportation for students found eligible for special education is guided by State Regulation 603 CMR 28.05:

- Through the eligibility and team meeting process, the student's IEP Team determines whether the student requires transportation because of his or her disability, and in order to benefit from special education.
- Once the IEP Team determines that the student's disability requires transportation or specialized transportation to benefit from special education, it is noted on the student's IEP and transportation is considered a related service. The student is then entitled to receive transportation services to any program provided by the public school and in which the student participates.
- If the student receives regular transportation and does not require specialized transportation, this is also noted on the student's IEP. However, if the student is placed by the school district in a program located at a school other than the school the student would have attended if not eligible for special education, the student is entitled to receive transportation services to that program.
- Under this regulation, "In no event shall a school district allow transportation considerations to influence, modify, or determine the educational program required by any student in need of special education."

Eligibility for Specialized Transportation: McKinney-Vento & Foster Care

Transportation for MV/FC children is guided by the McKinney-Vento Education Stability Act 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431-11434A

- Students experiencing homelessness or foster care should remain in their school of origin whenever possible to minimize academic disruptions
- Transportation to SoO can be provided:
 - In district
 - Across district lines
 - Across state lines
 - No travel time or mileage restrictions
- Must be comparable to what is provided to peers and includes extracurricular access to activities i.e., sports, clubs, other after school events
- Must meet the state's pupil transportation requirements
- Must be provided through the end of the school year when MV students become permanently housed

Responsibility

- Homeless students – shared responsibility of district where child is enrolled AND district where child is sheltered
- Foster care students – district of origin is 100% responsible for transporting to and from SoO
- SPED students – responsibility of the fiscally responsible district