



City of Boston, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor  
**Michelle Wu**

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear City Councilors:

In Response to a 17F request filed by your Honorable Body on March 1, 2023, Docket 0464.  
Re: Relative to the BPS Transportation Follow Up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michelle Wu".

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston



**BPS Department of Transportation**  
Daniel Rosengard, Executive Director

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building  
2300 Washington Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119

617-635-9520  
[schoolbus@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:schoolbus@bostonpublicschools.org)  
[bostonpublicschools.org/transportation](http://bostonpublicschools.org/transportation)

March 9, 2023

Boston City Council  
One City Hall Square, 5th floor  
Boston City Hall  
Boston, MA 02201

Re: 17F (Docket 0464)

Dear City Councilors,

Attached please find responses to Docket 0464: *Order requesting certain information under Section 17F re: BPS Transportation follow-up on a previous request filed by At-Large Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy on March 1, 2023.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Rosengard".

Daniel Rosengard  
Executive Director  
Boston Public Schools Transportation Department



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE

ORDER OF COUNCILOR MURPHY

**ORDERED:** That under the provisions of section 17F of Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as amended, and any other applicable provision of law, Her Honor, the Mayor, be, and hereby is, requested to obtain and deliver to the City Council, within one week of the receipt hereof, the following information:

We are aware that on-time AM bus arrival data BPS submits to DESE omits a large portion of data for planned arrival routes. 25% of routes are missing data. Of the 75% of data that BPS does share, we request the following information.

Based on the responses from my previous 17F that asked:

- 1: The number of students each day that did not get picked up by their assigned school bus
- 2: The number of times a backup bus needed to be sent out

We calculated that on average, 51.7 students are on uncovered buses each day, and an average of 5.6 students per day have a backup bus sent to them, this means the Boston Public Schools do not pick up 46.1 students per day via the bus that is assigned to transport them safely, and on time, to school. Many of these students arrive very late, or not make it to school at all. A high percentage of students assigned to school buses are on IEPs, which means many of our special education students are missing critical specialized services and therapies.

We are still waiting on the responses to the following questions and despite BPS telling us that they do not have data on bus student arrival times available by student or by school, we know that BPS utilizes Aspen, which is the district's student information tracking system, and each school is required to record absences and time of tardies for each student, each day.

1. The actual time the students arrived at school if there bus was late, a backup bus was sent, or a bus did not pick them up at all
  - a. The number of students across the system this happens to on a daily basis since September 9, 2022
  - b. The number of students by school this happens to on a daily basis since September 9, 2022

2. How many of these students miss an entire day of school because of our unreliable bus system
  - a. The number of students across the system since September 9, 2022
  - b. The number of students by school since September 9, 2022

Requesting that Boston Public School's, through the Mayor, provide any and all information that is available regarding this matter.

Filed in Council: March 1, 2023



**BPS Department of Transportation**

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TO: Boston City Council  
FROM: Daniel Rosengard, Executive Director of Transportation  
DATE: March 9, 2023  
SUBJECT: Docket 0464 17F Responses

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The following responses are from the Boston Public Schools (BPS) to Docket 0464: *Order requesting certain information under Section 17F re: BPS Transportation follow-up on a previous request filed by At-Large Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy on March 1, 2023.*

**17F Questions**

1. The actual time the students arrived at school if there bus was late, a backup bus was sent, or a bus did not pick them up at all
  - a. The number of students across the system this happens to on a daily basis since September 9, 2022
  - b. The number of students by school this happens to on a daily basis since September 9, 2022
2. How many of these students miss an entire day of school because of our unreliable bus system
  - a. The number of students across the system since September 9, 2022
  - b. The number of students by school since September 9, 2022

**Responses**

1. BPS does not have data responsive to this request. BPS does not currently track individual student ridership. As such, BPS does not have data on bus student arrival times available by student or by school.

BPS previously provided data that indicates that on average in SY22-23 (as of 12/9/22), an estimated 2,640 students (12% of bus students) per day arrive after the bell, an estimated 440 students (2% of bus students) per day arrive more than 15 minutes after the bell, and an estimated 220 students (1% of bus students) per day arrive more than 30 minutes after the bell as a result of yellow bus transportation delays. BPS also previously provided data that indicates that on average in SY22-23 (as of 12/9/22), an estimated 51.7



students are on uncovered buses each day and an estimated 5.6 students are provided with a backup bus each day.

2. BPS does not have data responsive to this request. BPS does not currently track individual student ridership. As such, BPS does not have student-level data on which students miss an entire day of school as a result of transportation challenges. BPS previously provided data that indicates that on average in SY22-23 (as of 12/9/22), an estimated 51.7 students are on uncovered buses each day.