

City Council Unit of Appropriation 438: School Transportation for Homeless Students Summary Report

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Requirements

As a condition of the funds in unit of appropriation number 438, the Department of Education (“DOE”) shall submit to the Council semi-annual reports on busing provided for students living in shelters. Such reports shall detail the number of students who have been routed and a snapshot of the number of students who are waiting to be routed. The semi-annual reports shall be submitted as follows: the first report shall be submitted no later than January 15, 2025 and shall cover the period beginning September 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024. The second report shall be submitted no later than July 15, 2025 and shall cover the period beginning January 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2025.

Assumptions

- “Students living in shelters” was interpreted as students living in DHS shelters
- Students are considered eligible for busing if they meet one of the following criteria:
 1. The student is in grade K-6, lives 0.5 miles or more from the school and has a parent transportation preference for busing or transportation preference is unknown
 2. The student is in grades 7-8, has an IEP (without a mandate for busing), lives more than 0.5 miles from the school and has a parent transportation preference for busing or transportation preference is unknown
 3. The student has an IEP mandate for busing, regardless of parent transportation preference
- Students living in shelters were identified by a feed of data to DOE from DHS between September 2024 and December 2024
- A monthly snapshot for each month from September 2024 through December 2024 was used to represent students living in DHS shelters over the reporting period
- All distinct, eligible students who appeared on the DHS snapshots were included
- Any student who was routed as of the snapshot date was counted as routed, irrespective of the parent preference transportation indication

- A student was recorded as routed if they were routed at any point during the reporting period

Notes

- The DOE is committed to the safety of our newly arrived students as they travel to and from school. "Asylum seekers" is a group that qualifies under STH, until they are permanently housed.
- The increase in routed students can be partially attributed to the influx of asylum-seeking students in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Students living in shelters are identified by a daily feed of data to DOE from DHS. The data provided by DHS does not identify asylum seeking students. Eligible students are assigned transportation in the same way as all students living in shelters.

Definitions

Category	Definition
Routed	Student was routed at some point on the DHS snapshots between September 2024 - December 2024. This includes all students who are assigned to a route, regardless of parent preference transportation indication
Waiting To Be Routed	The student is eligible for busing and has a parent preference of busing, or the parent preference is unknown, or the student has an IEP that mandates busing and the student is not routed. This may be due to unavailable route or vehicle or discrepancy in data between DHS and DOE
OMNY pass (previously student MetroCard)	The student is eligible for busing, and the parent opted for an OMNY pass, and the student is not assigned to a bus route
Self-Transport by Parent Choice	The student is eligible for busing, and the parent opted for private transportation or alternate arrangements for the child to commute to and from school, and the student is not assigned to a bus route

Data

Count of Distinct Eligible DOE Students Living in DHS Shelters September-December 2024	
Category	Count of Students
Routed	7,191
Waiting To Be Routed	2,114
OMNY	2,386
Self-Transport By Parent Choice	2,261
Total	13,952



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