



## **Single Bus Run Proposal Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

***Q: Why is the Ichabod Crane School District looking to move to a single bus run?***

A: Since the November presentation at the Board of Education meeting about the potential for Ichabod Crane to move to a single bus run, District officials have continued to look into the possibility of implementing this change. A plan has been developed that would allow the District to implement this change for the 2018-19 school year and potentially save close to \$250,000 per year. This would enable the District to preserve staffing and programs during a more difficult budget development process with increased financial challenges. The District would also be able to retain bus drivers, purchase additional buses and provide academic benefits for our students.

***Q: What other rationale is there to move to a single bus run rather than just cost savings?***

A:

- The District can expand the number of late buses available without adding cost.
- The single bus run will allow our students to be safer in case of an emergency evacuation or early dismissal due to inclement weather. Currently from start to finish dismissal is a three-hour process. With the single bus run, it is reduced to under two hours.
- Research supports that having all of their children on the same schedule for grades K-12 is more efficient for parents and families.
- If the District redesigns the campus road system as part of an upcoming Capital Project, there will be further reductions in total student time on the bus.
- Our school buses will travel a minimum of 110,000 less miles per school year and reduce the time spent on the road by approximately 3600 hours a year.
- CO2 emissions will be reduced by over 300,00 pounds annually.

***Q: Will students' time on the bus increase as a result of a single bus run?***

A: Ichabod Crane's current system allows high school students to be dropped off first and picked up last. Under the new scenario, they will be dropped off first and picked up

first in the afternoon. High school students will therefore be on the bus a bit longer than they currently are now. However, it is important to note that only about 25-30% of the High School students ride the bus at the end of the day due to after-school activities and interscholastic sports. The consolidation of bus runs will allow many Elementary, Middle and Primary students to be on the bus for less time than they currently are now. The longest ride for the most outlying bus stops will still be under one hour, which is our current practice. Each bus will have a reduced coverage area due to combining two bus runs thus allowing for an increased number of students per stop.

***Q: What will the seating arrangements on the bus look like?***

A: Students will be assigned seats using the District's current seat assignment process with K-12 from front to back. Current disciplinary data collected by IC does not indicate any significant disciplinary issues due to age or grade level differences.

***Q: What is the process for deciding to move to a single bus run?***

A: Ichabod Crane CSD will host a community forum at 7:00 p.m. on March 27 in the high school auditorium to share information about moving to a single bus run starting in the 2018-19 school year. The Board of Education will further discuss this topic during the April 10th Board of Education meeting and a resolution to implement the change will be voted on during the Board of Education meeting on April 10 or May 1.

***Q: When would the change to a single bus run be implemented?***

A: Pending approval by the Board of Education, the change to a single bus run will start during the 2018-19 school year.

***Q: How will this change impact the start and ending times for students in each school building?***

A: Summary of the Plan

- School Day Hours:
  - High School 7:45 am - 2:15 pm
  - Elementary/Middle School 7:52 am - 2:22 pm
  - Primary School 8:20 am - 2:25 pm

***Q: Will the District need to purchase additional buses?***

A: The District may need to lease one additional large bus for a cost of \$18,000. The cost savings already include this additional expense.

***Q: Will the District need to hire additional bus drivers? Will bus drivers lose their jobs due to this proposed change?***

A: Staffing Needs

- The District expects to hire an additional two drivers to meet the single bus run needs.
- Job Share Opportunities: A single bus run system will allow the District to more efficiently share faculty and staff.
  - There is the potential to have drivers who are interested in work between shifts to assist with lunch period duties in the high school and the middle school.
  - There is the potential to have drivers who are interested in work after their afternoon shift to work with the night staff in the middle school and the high school to assist in nightly cleaning. The District could develop a more consistent and thorough sanitizing program.

***Q: How long will students be on the bus in a single bus run compared to the current double bus run that is in place?***

A: Routes will be designed to have similar ride times to the current double bus run. Providing more buses will reduce travel time for the majority of students and it will eliminate ride times in excess of 70 minutes.

***Q: What are the financial savings by moving to a single bus run?***

A: The following net cost savings already include any additional cost built into the savings.

Cost Savings:

- Fuel Savings:
  - 110,000 annual mileage decrease
  - 27,500 less gallons diesel fuel used per yearEstimated Fuel Savings = **\$70,000 - \$80,000**
- Maintenance Savings:
  - Less oil changes
  - Decreased tire set changes
  - Decreased fewer filter replacementsEstimated Maintenance Savings = **\$7,000 - \$10,000**
- Personnel and Payroll Savings:
  - 22 fewer hours dailyEstimated Payroll Savings = **\$138,000 - \$155,000**
- Total Transportation Estimated Savings Per Year = **\$215,000 - \$245,000**

**Q: What are the academic benefits for moving to a single bus run?**

A: Academic benefits include:

- K-12 Staffing on same schedule for conferences and meetings. This would allow more collaboration between buildings and district-wide departments supporting K-12 initiatives.
- Beginning/ending times for professional development days would be consistent across all buildings with a single bus run making joint workshops/presentations feasible.
- Shared staff between buildings would be more efficient and effective with the same start/end time to the school day.
- Students traveling between buildings is more feasible for enrichment opportunities.

**Q: Will a single bus run benefit parents?**

A: Many parents may find it beneficial to have all of their children on one schedule for planning purposes. Having older siblings dropped off at the same time with younger siblings may help with child care needs. Older students escorting their younger siblings off of the bus may also help parents who have difficulty being at the bus stop each day.

**Q: How will the logistics change for parents dropping off students or picking up students on campus?**

A: The maintenance department will work with the transportation department and the building principals to provide vehicle signage, reconfigured traffic patterns and adequate sidewalks for the efficient drop off and pick up of students at each building.

- Administration is working with the transportation department and the maintenance department to determine the most efficient and safest means possible. This has not yet been finalized.
- At the Primary School, teachers will be walking the students out to their individual buses at the end of the day since there will be additional buses in the line up.
- Morning Drop-off and Afternoon Departure Times for Buses
  - High School 7:30 am - 2:21 pm
  - Elementary/Middle School 7:37 am - 2:29 pm
  - Primary School 7:50 am - 2:45 pm