



Ya'll Have Enough Bus Drivers? Another Indication That NC Is Not Fully Funding Public Schools

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So, how many bus drivers does your school system need?

In the Wake County district (the state's largest and one of the largest in the nation), there are not enough bus drivers.



Keung Hui
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Interim Wake County Supt. Randy Bridges asks people in the community who have a CDL to consider driving a school bus for at least the start of the school year to help out while they recruit more permanent drivers. [#wcpss](#)

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Wake County school board member Monika Johnson-Hostler says it's embarrassing for North Carolina's largest school district to say it can't provide daily bus service to bus riders. She says it's unacceptable not to get kids to school every day. [#wcpss](#)

5:22 PM · 8/1/23 from Earth · 2,206 Views

Why?

The pay is not high enough to recruit drivers.

A large school district has a lot of students.

A large school district has a lot of roads to be traveled and more vehicles to create traffic.

But before someone makes the argument that this district should be able to attract bus drivers when it spends so much on a local supplement for teachers to stay in the Wake County School System...

SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23

Year	LEA	LEA Name	Teacher No. of Position	Teacher No. Rec. Supplmt.	Teacher Average Supplmt.	Principal No. of Position	Principal No. Rec. Supplmt.	Principal Average Supplmt.	Assistant Principals No. of Position	Assistant Principals No. Rec. Supplmt.	Assistant Principals Average Supplmt.
2023	681	Chapel-Hill/Carrboro City Schools	899	896	10,135	21	21	42,741	25	25	13,211
2023	920	Wake County Schools	10,578	10,578	9,465	196	196	26,993	394	394	15,519
2023	600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools	10,513	10,458	9,345	173	173	22,485	247	245	10,254
2023	650	New Hanover County Schools	1,842	1,842	9,015	40	40	19,710	57	57	10,311
2023	320	Durham County Schools	2,442	2,282	8,414	55	55	33,139	100	99	11,349
2023	110	Buncombe County Schools	1,965	1,937	8,292	44	44	13,248	65	56	10,608
2023	730	Person County Schools	366	366	7,791	12	12	13,673	9	9	8,124
2023	340	Forsyth County Schools	4,319	3,698	7,740	80	80	30,102	139	135	12,649

..., consider that this shortage in bus drivers is not an isolated incident.

It's happening in all districts.

In the Winston-Salem / Forsyth County School system, there were over 75 bus driver vacancies as of yesterday – FOUR WEEKS BEFORE CLASSES START.

In a state sitting on billions in budget surpluses, ranks number #1 for businesses (not workers – businesses), and wants to triple the amount of voucher money to schools that don't have to offer transportation, this is more evidence that we as a state are not prioritizing public education.

Some might say, "Well, we keep investing more and more money in public education!"

And they would be right. But are they comparing those spending increases to what we have spent in the past on education and not comparing those costs to a truer barometer: labor costs.

Throw in some inflation and a brief look at how teacher salaries have been altered (some say "reformed"), it's not hard to see why we have these vacancies in other positions for education support.

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