



Message from the Superintendent

Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District



July 23, 2009

Dear Key Communicator:

CFISD's financial challenges make it necessary to reduce the budget by \$14 million and as a result some services the district provides will be reduced or eliminated. **One of the services that the district has eliminated is bus service for students for whom the state does not provide funding to the district. In general, students who live less than two miles from their assigned schools are ineligible to ride the bus.**

This also applies to students cared for by state-recognized child care providers and grandparents who are also located within two miles of the student's assigned campus.

Letters have been mailed home to parents of the students whose addresses have been determined to be within this two-mile limit and will therefore be ineligible for transportation services.

There are two exceptions to the two-mile rule. Students residing within two miles of their assigned schools may have transportation services provided if they meet either of these conditions: 1) They must cross or walk along a hazardous roadway as defined in the district's hazardous declaration. 2) They receive special education services and transportation is required.

Last year the state only reimbursed the district \$6.4 million of approximately \$32 million spent to transport students. In the past, the school district has been able to absorb transportation costs at the local level. However, the district can no longer fund services for which it receives no reimbursement.

Also, the district will no longer provide "late bus service" for secondary students. In addition, the "shuttle bus service" that was provided during the school day has been changed for many of the programs in the district. Students who are planning to take courses not offered on their home campuses will need to verify with the campus administrator or the transportation help desk referenced in the following paragraph, whether or not transportation will be provided by the district.

The district regrets the need for this reduction in service as well as other service reductions and budget cuts that are being made, but financial conditions require that these actions be taken. Additional information has been posted on the district's website at

<http://www.cfisd.net/dept2/transp/services.htm> including a copy of the parent letter, answers to frequently asked questions, maps and a helpline at 281-955-4010.

Sincerely,
David Anthony, Ed.D.