

Transportation Report



February 2026

SUPPORTIVE

Semi-Annual School Bus Inspection: Every six months, the Department of Education and Department of Public Safety conduct a 100-point inspection of our buses and student support vehicles, reviewing everything from lights and brakes to rust and documentation.

Minor deficiencies must be repaired within 30 days; more serious issues require repair before the vehicle can be driven. January 2026 Inspection Results (48 Vehicles Inspected):

- 28 with zero deficiencies
- 18 with minor deficiencies (30-day repair)
- 2 required repair before returning to service

It's easy to focus on the two buses that required immediate repair. While the issues needed prompt attention, neither posed an immediate safety concern, and both were repaired within hours of the inspection.

Of the 48 buses inspected, 28 had zero deficiencies and 18 had only minor issues. That's a strong overall result. If 28 out of 48 students scored perfectly on a final exam and another 18 passed with minor corrections, we'd be pleased.

School bus safety is a team effort. Our mechanics lead the work, but daily inspections by our drivers are equally important. The semi-annual inspection gives us another set of professional eyes on our fleet, and we welcome that accountability. Perfection isn't the expectation — continuous improvement is.

INNOVATION

Rust Repairs & Preventative Maintenance - About 10 years ago, John Maxwell, our Lead Mechanic, designed and implemented an underbody rinse system to neutralize corrosive road chemicals and reduce damage from salt and brine.

It took several years of consistent spring rinsing to see measurable results, but the impact has been significant. We've gone from 4–5 buses written up for rust at each inspection to about one bus every other inspection.

With rust repairs costing \$4,000–\$5,000 per bus — along with extending the life of our vehicles — the financial benefit is clear. Preventative maintenance protects our fleet, strengthens safety, and keeps more dollars in the classroom.

This is what long-term thinking and consistency look like.

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Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director