

# School Buses

## Replacement, Parking and Fueling

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# School Buses

- Type C “Conventional”



- Type D “Transit-Style”
  - None in past 10 yrs
  - Originally purchased for extra capacity (78)
    - Now Type C’s up to 72 capacity
  - Cost to operate: much higher



# School Buses

- 13,700 yellow route buses on the road daily
- About 1,400 spare buses when route buses are down for maintenance

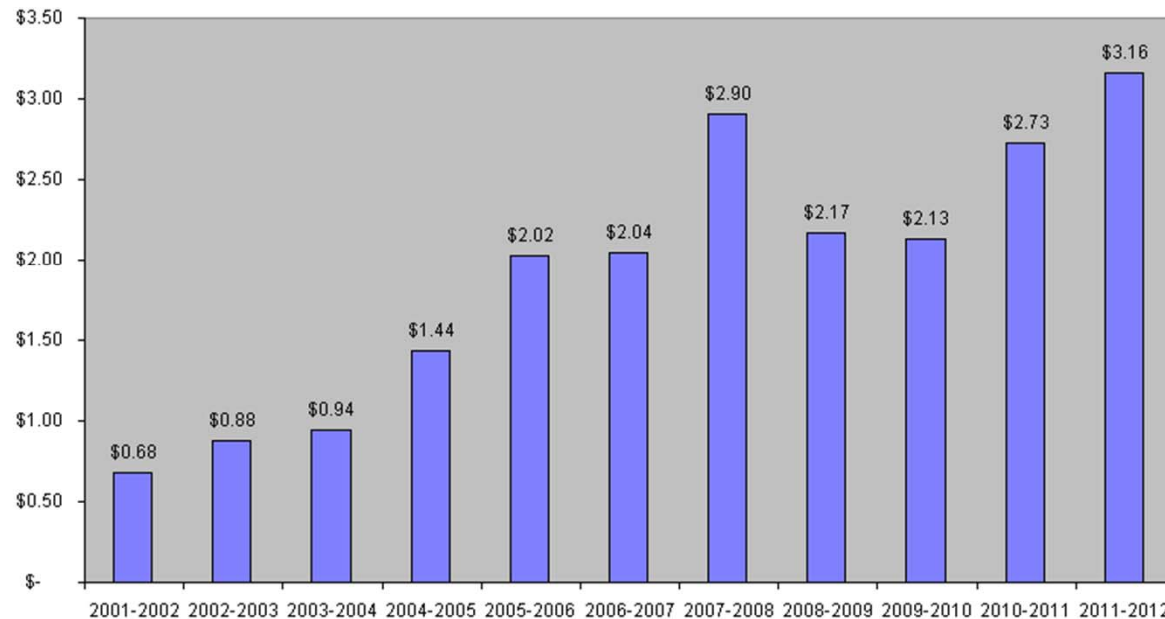


- About 3,000 activity buses  
(extra-curricular trips)

# School Bus Diesel Fuel

- 27 million gallons per year
  - 150,000 gallons per day
- @ today's \$3.40/gallon = \$ 91.8 million/yr
- Total state appropriation \$395 million
  - Fuel, drivers, maintenance, contracts, etc

Average Fuel Price by Fiscal Year



# Vehicle Replacement Policy

- Each local board of education is authorized to own and operate a school bus fleet under Statute 115C-239.
  - School buses for basic to-and-from-school transportation
  - Service vehicles required for bus maintenance and fuel delivery
- Vehicles were originally purchased by the local boards over a period of many years.
- The rate at which vehicles are replaced depends on the age and mileage of the vehicles, subject to appropriations from the General Assembly.
- DPI arranges for the purchase of the vehicles and allocates those funds/vehicles to the local boards annually

# Fuel Trucks



- Fuel trucks are the primary source for distributing fuel to the bus fleet. With the buses typically staged away from the garage, a remote system of fueling is essential.
- A local board may request that the DPI review the need for an additional fuel truck. Several factors will be considered in granting the request including growth and current logistics for fueling the buses (i.e. school locations and staging areas).
- The general rule for fuel trucks is one truck per 75 buses. In order to add a truck, the fleet must be 35 buses above this 75:1 ratio

# Vehicle Replacement

- The Transportation Services Section is charged with allocating resources designated by the North Carolina General Assembly for school bus replacement among all (LEAs) in the state in an equitable manner
- Once vehicles are replaced, they remain titled to the LEAs; however, their authorized use must comply with State Board of Education policy and Public School Law.

# School Bus Replacement Criteria

DPI Transportation Services considers all of the following in determining which buses in the statewide fleet are to be replaced in a given year:

- Age of the bus
- Mileage of the bus
- Condition of the bus
- Availability of funds
- Unique circumstances about a given bus
- Buses destroyed by accident or vandalism



# Rust, Wrecks



End of a high speed chase, vehicle running from SBI and Sherriff

# School Bus Replacement Criteria

- A bus must have been operated by an LEA as authorized under Statute 115C-242 to be considered for replacement. Any use of a replacement bus by an LEA or other entity for purposes other than "to-and-from-school" requires reimbursement to the State
- In general, an LEA will receive a bus of similar construction and size to the one being replaced.
- If an LEA is not replacing a wheelchair lift bus, but desires a lift, the LEA must purchase the lift according to guidelines established for equipment replacement by Transportation Services.
- An LEA may be allowed to adjust capacities depending on bus offerings in a given year. For instance, an LEA may be allowed to replace a smaller capacity bus with a larger capacity bus being afford in a given year at no cost.

# School Bus Fueling – 1

## Tanker Delivers to Fuel Storage at School Bus Garage





# School Bus Fueling – 2

Fuel Trucks Load 1400-1800 Gallons and Deliver to Buses in Bus Parking Areas (usu. at school)



# School Bus Fueling – 3

## Fuel Truck Driver Pumps Diesel into Buses





# Secure Parking

## “The exception rather than the rule”



Chapel Hill central parking (very compact geography)



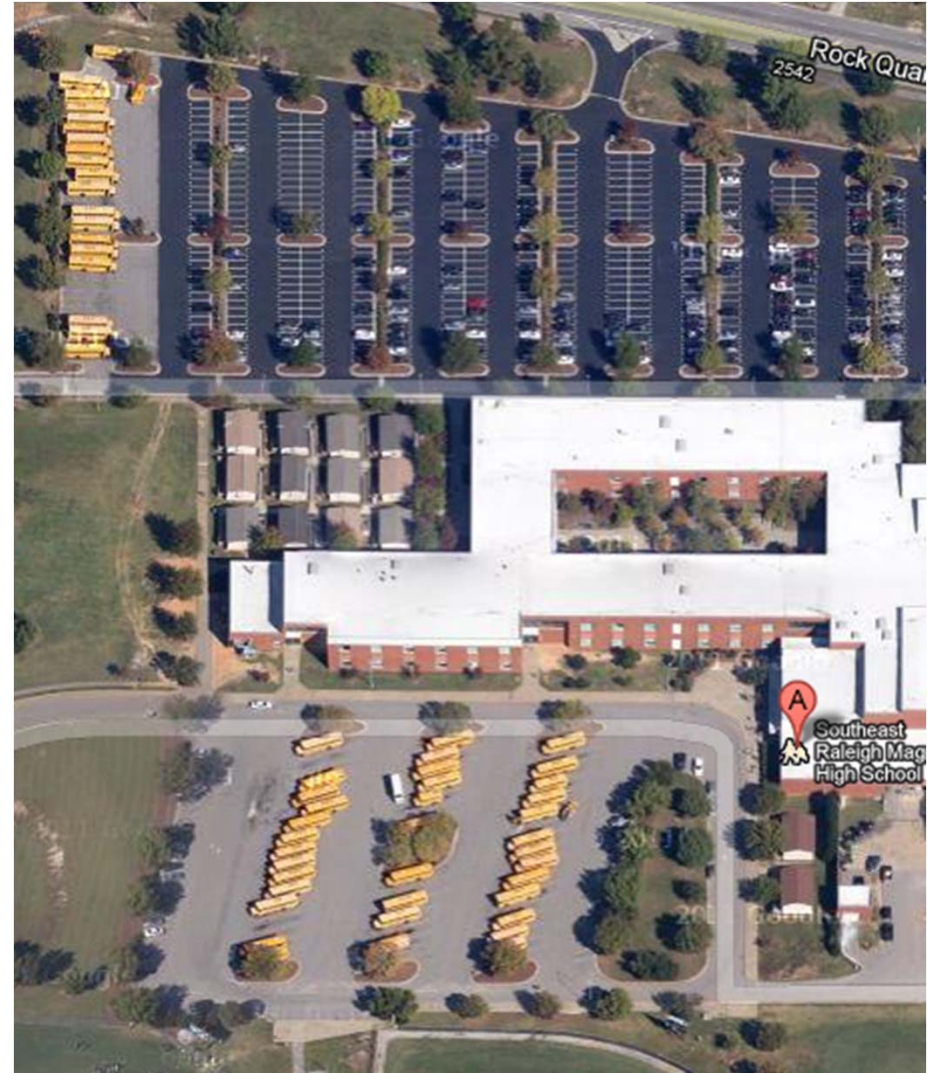
Charlotte-Mecklenburg – 5 Bus Garages w/secure parking

# Bus Parking Areas – On School Grounds





# School Bus Parking at Schools





# School Bus Parking at Schools



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