



Struggle-La-Lucha.org

Brooklyn, NYC: School bus rights press conference for TRANSIT EQUITY DAY, Feb. 4

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 26, 2022

NYC Children with and without disabilities need a SCHOOL BUS BILL OF RIGHTS

We call on Mayor Bloomberg, the Chancellor, and the Office of Pupil Transportation under Deputy Chancellor Grimm to:

1. Plan ahead, prevent chaos—stop late summer layoffs!

Any vehicles that are underutilized on the first day of school will fill up soon enough, so get them ready and rolling with a full complement of workers.

2. Respect educational mandates for adequate supervision

On special education vehicles, student-to-adult ratios and the range of grades/disabilities grouped together should align with the limits that apply during the school day.

3. Stop creating route schedules that make disabled children consistently miss lessons in the morning and/or afternoon.

4. Respect physical and neurological needs of the children

- a) Enforce regulations on limited time travel and air conditioning.
- b) Minimize unsolicited changes in routine.



5. Simplify bus itineraries—limit the number of schools or dismissal times on each route.

6. SAFETY ABOVE ALL!

- a) Equip wheelchair vehicles with harnesses and headrests.
- b) Restore general education busing through 8th grade in Staten Island.
- c) Enforce mandate for schools to work with drivers and escorts to provide bus evacuation drills twice a year.
- d) Inspect for safety matters, not excuses to fine and harass bus workers.
- e) Study the feasibility of snow chains and other bad-weather needs.

7. Proactively inform parents and special educators on how to secure transportation rights on the Individualized Education Program

8. Improve communication about emergency and long-term changes

9. Empower a panel of elected representatives of organizations of parents, educators and bus workers to either approve or renegotiate OPT plans for achieving the above goals and more

10. Maintain an experienced, skilled and dedicated transportation workforce: Support the EPP (Mollen Agreement) bill in Albany

To endorse this effort, contact

**Parents
TO
improve
SCHOOL
Transportation**

pistnyc@gmail.com
347.504.3310
www.pistnyc.org

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022 AT 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

School bus rights press conference for TRANSIT EQUITY DAY

65 Court St, Brooklyn, NY

Who: NYC school bus riders' families and advocates

Why: announce 2022 campaign for a School Bus Bill of Rights referendum. Where: in front of the Dept of Education's Contracts office

What: to discuss problems and solutions for student transportation justice.

Why now?

*February 4, the birthday of Rosa Parks, is Transit Equity Day; we say this equity should begin with the youngest riders!

**In the time of Covid-19, crowded buses that each serve multiple schools are a public health risk.

Why there?

*The current system -of awarding route contracts to the lowest bidders- has led to lower quality conditions, civil rights violations and human suffering for riders, and 8 years of attrition in the school bus workforce. The DOE must take responsibility to provide safer, shorter, more stable and fully staffed school bus routes for all who need them.

**We want to know where the Covid Relief / Infrastructure money is going-how much of the budget for this public service goes to private profits, and how much actually benefits the people on the bus?

OUR TOP DEMANDS:

- 1) Stop making route decisions that undermine educational access for students with disabilities and for students in transitional housing.
- 2) Reverse the driver & attendant shortage by restoring Employee Protection Provisions and expanding all layers of pandemic control measures.
- 3) Recruit and retain more school bus paras and nurses, so students with urgent behavioral or medical issues can get to school every day.
- 4) Empower a panel of true stakeholders to oversee all policy decisions, from enhanced training to realistic transportation plans for Academic Recovery/ Special Education Recovery services.
- 5) Provide proactive communication in all home languages and don't rely only on the

internet!



<https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2022/01/26/brooklyn-nyc-school-bus-rights-press-conference-for-transit-equity-day-feb-4/>