

December 23, 2022

Dear Students and Families Impacted by Bus 71 and Bus 136 Cancellations,

As you know, in response to continued bus driver shortages, Peoria Unified's transportation department has suspended bus service through March of 2023 for students riding Buses 71 and 136. We are hopeful that staffing increases might allow for a faster resumption of service, but in the meantime, we are **reaching out to offer an additional resource for families impacted by the cancelations**:

Beginning Monday, January 9th, **students who ride Bus 71 or Bus 136 may arrive earlier and stay later to accommodate their parents' work schedules and transportation needs**. I want to thank our English Teacher, Dr. Robert Scott, for offering to provide early morning supervision daily beginning at 6:00am. Dr. Scott will also provide afternoon supervision on every day except Wednesdays, from 2:30 – 4pm. A number of students and parents have indicated that these extended hours would help them:

Bus 71 and 136 Supervision with Dr. Scott

Room 506

Before School (Daily) 6 – 7am After School (M, Tu, Th, F) 2:30 – 4pm

I know that many of our parents and students are deeply inconvenienced by these cancellations. Our district's leaders and transportation staff are working every day to hire and train more drivers. I appreciate your patience and partnership as we work together through this challenge. If you have any questions, please call our office at 623-412-4400.

Mr. Hollabaugh Principal



December 22, 2022

Dear Families,

In the fall, Peoria Unified had to suspend a handful of bus routes across the district as we worked to hire and train new bus drivers. While we have new drivers currently completing the certification process, we continue to experience bus driver shortages. Unfortunately, we will need to cancel additional bus routes when we return from Winter Break.

The following is a list of cancelled bus routes, which will begin Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, and will remain cancelled until we have drivers who are able to cover these routes. Students riding on these routes will need to have an alternate form of transportation to and from school.

SCHOOL	BUS ROUTES CANCELLED
ALTA LOMA	Bus 136
CENTENNIAL HS	Bus 71, Bus 136
COTTON BOLL	Bus 100
COUNTRY MEADOWS	Bus 100, Bus 121
FRONTIER	Bus 70, Bus 121
KELLIS HS	Bus 100, Bus 121
LAKE PLEASANT	Bus 78, Bus 135
LIBERTY HS	Bus 78, Bus 135
SKY VIEW	Bus 71
SUN VALLEY	Bus 71
SUNRISE MOUNTAIN HS	Bus 70
ZUNI HILLS	Bus 70

These cancelations do NOT include:

- Special education routes
- Academic buses (preschool, 8th-graders attending high school classes, MET students, PFA)
- Buses used outside of the normal route times, such as for field trips and athletics. Extracurricular buses can continue for the time being. Some are being chartered during the normal route times.

Peoria Unified continues to evaluate its driver hiring and recruitment processes, increase its advertising to seek bus driver applicants, and reform its Transportation Department employee group to determine workplace efficiency improvements and adjustments.

If you or someone you know wants a rewarding career supporting our students as a bus driver, please share this information with them and direct them to <u>our website to apply</u>. If anything changes over break and we are able to reinstate routes sooner than anticipated, we will let you know.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Peoria Unified School District