



Sedalia School District #200

Missouri Model District

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Jan. 7, 2022

Message from Sedalia School District 200

Today's cancellation of school was caused by an unforeseen amount of absences among First Student's bus driving staff, but I take full responsibility for not having a comprehensive plan in place to address the issue.

We have worked with First Student to have contingency plans should manageable numbers of drivers be absent. If five or six drivers are out, we can combine routes or deploy backups to help manage the load to get students to and from school safely and on time. This morning, 13 drivers called out with illnesses ranging from COVID-19 to bronchitis to influenza – that is 45 percent of the driving team. Our contingencies were not designed to accommodate that many absences, but we are working with First Student through the weekend to have workable solutions by Monday, should the drivers' illnesses persist.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires districts to provide bus transportation to and from school for all students who reside 3.5 miles or more from the school in their attendance area; Sedalia 200 provides bus routes for students who live 1 mile or more from the school in their attendance area. Our emergency solution will provide bus service for students who live 2 miles or more from the school in their attendance area; bus stops also will be consolidated in this plan, so students may have to walk farther or be driven to the designated stop in this scenario. We realize this may create challenges for some district families, but we are working toward a solution that will allow us to have in-person education consistently for all students.

When we complete the emergency bus transportation plan this weekend, we will share it with all of you via email and we will post the plan on the district website (sedalia200.org).

Regards,

Steven G. Triplett
Superintendent, Sedalia School District 200