



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Majority of Surveyed School Districts Seek to Acquire New School Buses but Face Roadblocks**

*Budget Cuts and Lack of Access to Capital Prohibiting the Acquisition of New Vehicles  
and Hindering Efforts to Provide Safe, Reliable School Transportation*

**Charleston, S.C. (April 23, 2019)** – Transportation Services Co. (TSC), an innovative fleet management services company working with public, private, and not-for-profit organizations, today released a new study shedding light on the opportunities and challenges facing school bus management professionals. The nationwide survey, “2019 School Bus Fleet Management Survey”, tapped into the thoughts of K-12 superintendents, school administrators, fleet managers and transportation directors about their current and future fleet management and acquisition needs.

“Student transportation fleet management is a challenge for most districts,” stated Tod Eskra, President of TSC. “It’s evident that the age of school bus fleets impacts safe, reliable service and that is why districts need to acquire new vehicles, but they are often limited by budget constraints largely because they pay cash for new buses. Districts that are paying cash are not really doing themselves any favors. In the survey results, we were encouraged to see some districts financing or leasing, which are viable options that more should consider to improve their situations.”

Some key findings revealed in the survey include:

#### **Age of School Bus Fleet Impacts Student Transportation Services**

Recognition of the impact a school bus fleet’s age has on a school district’s ability to provide safe and reliable student transportation services was high among respondents. Virtually all (98%) of transportation directors, superintendents and other respondents felt the age of their fleet was either “essential” (58.8%) or “important” (38.9%) to their ability to provide safe and reliable student transportation service.

## **Acquiring New Buses is a Top School District Priority**

Survey respondents were asked to identify their school district's short- (next 12 months) and near-term (2 to 5 years) priorities. The top three priorities for both the short- and near-terms were:

- Acquire new or newer school buses
- Sell older buses
- Reduce school bus fleet costs

## **Lack of Budget is Biggest Barrier to Fleet Modernization**

A clear majority of survey respondents (71%) identified "budget" as the greatest barrier to modernizing their school bus fleet, followed by "lack of purchasing power" (10%) and lack of financing options (8%).

For more information on the survey results and to view all the findings, download the full report [here](#).

## **Methodology**

The survey, commissioned by TSC and administered by an independent market research company, was distributed in February 2019 to 1,615 superintendents, transportation managers and other individuals responsible for student transportation in the U.S. education sector. The nationwide study realized an impressive 18.6% response rate, representing 301 superintendents, transportation directors and other school administrators located throughout the United States.

Survey response data represents a cross-section of rural and suburban school districts servicing cities, towns and counties with populations from less than 10,000 to more than one million. The size of the school bus fleets owned/operated or contracted by these school districts range from less than 10 vehicles to more than 300.

## **About Transportation Services Co.**

TSC, a member of the [TransPar Group of Companies](#), is a full-service fleet management company that helps their clients cut costs and increase efficiencies across the entire spectrum of their fleet. TSC has a robust menu of products and services that support every aspect of a vehicle life cycle from bus specification development and acquisition, funding, fleet maintenance, parts management, risk management, and fueling through replacement planning.

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