

# Frequently Asked Questions: Relocations, Co-Locations & Transportation



July 21, 2025

Question	Answer
Staffing and Personnel	
How did you determine your relocation plans?	<p>To determine which schools to relocate or co-locate, the key factor used was the current enrollment of impacted schools in comparison to the capacity and current space utilization of potential receiving schools. Distance from the home school to the new school location, bell times, and the level of the host school were also important factors. Our goal was to consolidate schools to optimize space utilization.</p> <p>For example, Ashland, with an enrollment of 208, was selected to co-locate at Jefferson because Jefferson had a receiving enrollment of 125 and a capacity of 508, bringing the shared space utilization to 65.5%. Similarly, Hickey (284 enrollment) was co-located with Walbridge (122 receiving enrollment, 493 capacity) to reach 82.3% utilization, and Washington (259 enrollment) for Ames (131 receiving enrollment, 463 capacity) to reach 84.2% utilization.</p> <p>The availability of additional site options was also considered. Key considerations for co-location and reopening previously closed schools also included infrastructure and equipment readiness (technology and operations), additional furniture needs, technology relocation, and facilities checks. Academic and classroom needs, such as ensuring specialized Pre-K classrooms and identifying special education support, were also parameters. Funding for additional classroom supplies was also a consideration.</p> <p>When pairing schools, we considered factors such as enrollment and building capacity, bell schedules, instructional programming, geographic proximity, and grade configurations.</p>

<b>How will staffing assignments be determined for the relocated students and staff?</b>	Staffing allocations are determined using the same allocation methods as when each school was housed in a separate location. Existing staff will support students in their new locations.
<b>What is the plan for managing potential overlaps or gaps in staffing between the original and host schools?</b>	All schools will maintain their original staffing. Allocations are determined using the same method as when each school was housed in a separate location.
<b>What professional development and support will be provided to staff to facilitate a smooth transition and effective collaboration?</b>	<p>Schools will be provided with additional professional development opportunities beginning in July 2025 to support smooth transitions and effective collaboration. Key features will include culture and routines so that all adults are able to support all students and families.</p> <p>Staff have been working together to jointly analyze course offerings by each school to determine how students from both campuses can benefit from the certifications and talents of each member.</p>
<b>How will employee benefits, seniority, and collective bargaining agreements be handled during this temporary relocation?</b>	Employees will maintain rights provided for under their collective bargaining agreements.
<b>Safety and Security</b>	
<b>What enhanced safety and security measures will be implemented to</b>	Principals at each site are developing supervision and emergency preparedness plans to ensure all staff have a common understanding and can support students.

<b>accommodate the increased student population?</b>	Schools have developed plans for the flow of students (intake, hallways, lunch, dismissal) to reflect the needs of a larger student population.
<b>How will the district address potential behavioral issues or conflicts that may arise from combining different school cultures and student populations?</b>	School staff at each site have familiarity with students and families from their respective schools. Supervision plans will be in place to ensure all students are adequately supervised. Collaboration between all personnel is necessary to develop common expectations for all students. Students continue to have access to social workers, Family and Community Specialists, and other non-classroom-based staff to support positive school culture.
<b>What provisions are in place for students with specific safety or health needs (e.g., medical conditions, individualized education plans)?</b>	<p>Students with IEPs or 504 plans will continue to have access to those supports in their new locations.</p> <p>All leadership from schools will follow their students to the new locations, bringing with them their historical knowledge and documentation to support these students. Additionally, all documentation related to individual safety or health needs are housed in central locations at the district level.</p>
<b>Scheduling and Logistics</b>	
<b>How will the daily schedule (bell times, lunch periods, specials) be structured to accommodate both schools while maintaining separate entities?</b>	The schools will operate on a common bell time and shared facilities. This supports collaboration and culture across sites.
<b>What impact will the temporary relocation have on extracurricular activities, sports, and school</b>	Students will continue to have access to extracurricular activities and sports. Co-located high schools will operate a cooperative model for sports for the 2025-2026 school year.

<b>events for both the relocated and host schools?</b>	
<b>How will access to specialized facilities (e.g., science labs, art rooms, gymnasiums, libraries) be managed for all students?</b>	All students will have access to all specialized facilities. Principals are developing usage schedules.
<b>Curriculum and Instruction</b>	
<b>How will instructional continuity be maintained for students from the damaged schools?</b>	Students will continue to have access to an SLPS-adopted curriculum and be held to the same academic standards.
<b>How will student progress and assessment be tracked for students from both the original and host schools?</b>	Grading policies will remain consistent with what students have experienced in the past.
<b>What resources will be made available to address any potential learning gaps or challenges that may arise from the transition?</b>	Students will continue to have access to learning supports such as Reading Success Plans.
<b>Communication and Culture</b>	

<b>What is the communication plan for keeping principals, staff, students, and families informed throughout the relocation process?</b>	We will communicate directly with our school communities through their typical communication channels.
<b>How will the district support the creation of a positive and inclusive school culture that integrates both school communities?</b>	Principals are working collaboratively to plan for a positive school climate and culture and will support staff in developing collaborative relationships via additional professional learning beginning in July. Student and family events are being planned to support a sense of belonging during the time of co-location and beyond. The SLPS Climate and Culture Department will provide support for schools.
<b>What is the expected duration of the temporary relocation, and what is the process for determining when students can return to their original schools?</b>	As school buildings are repaired, timelines for returning to original school sites will be developed with school principals to provide for a smooth transition for students and families.
<b>Resources and Support</b>	
<b>What additional financial resources or supplies will be allocated to the host schools to accommodate the increased population and</b>	Additional funds to support additional staff time and the purchase of necessary materials will be provided.

<b>operational demands?</b>	
<b>What district-level support will be available to principals to navigate the complexities of managing combined school populations?</b>	Principals' primary point of contact will be their Network Superintendents.
<b>How will the district address any unforeseen challenges or issues that may arise during the temporary relocation?</b>	There are weekly planning sessions for all school principals to meet with district staff to address any unforeseen needs.
<b>Transportation</b>	
<b>How many bus drivers have been hired and trained?</b>	<p>Zum will conduct "Day 0" preparation during the week of July 21 at Stevens Middle School, where drivers will complete background verification and be onboarded into Zum's systems and payroll.</p> <p>220 routes will be covered for SLPS. A surplus of drivers is necessary to account for potential last-minute callouts. Zum's standard practice is to hire an additional 10% of drivers, which will total approximately 240 drivers. Zum is well on its way to meeting that goal.</p>
<b>How many Zum buses have been delivered?</b>	More than 90 buses have already arrived in the area and the majority are located at a local dealership. As previously reported, some buses are at Stevens Middle School, and the remaining deliveries will arrive between now and early August.
<b>Will the entire fleet of buses be available by August 18?</b>	Yes.
<b>Will enough drivers be onboarded by</b>	Yes.

<b>August 18 to cover all routes?</b>	
<b>What is the contingency plan if there are not enough buses and drivers?</b>	Zum is on track to have all routes covered.
<b>How many job openings are there in the transportation department, including routing specialists, call center, admin assistants and others?</b>	There are currently 2 new routing specialist positions available, and 1 compliance officer position open as that role was recently vacated.
<b>How many routes are there for 2025-2026 compared to 2024-2025?</b>	There are 220 routes for 25-26 SY compared to 118 routes for the 24-25 SY. 118 of last year's 220 routes were covered by yellow buses. Remaining students were transported by alternative transportation providers.
<b>What percentage of routes are finalized?</b>	75% of the routes have been finalized. Due to the May 16, 2025, tornado, the 75% referenced represents students who were not displaced or impacted by damage to their schools. The 75% also represents those who responded to SLPS' online priority registration.
<b>Where will Zum conduct its training and park buses after summer staff reports to Stevens on 8/4?</b>	Zum is prepared to park their buses on their own lot on the first of August 2025.
<b>When is the back-to-school brigade?</b>	SLPS does not host a Back-to-School Brigade. However, on August 5, 2025, we will provide a back-to-school fair. As part of this event, SLPS has invited Zum to have a booth and/or tent at the back-to-school fair, with buses on-site for the community to explore and engage with.
<b>When will bus riders receive RFID cards?</b>	Zum Services LLC will provide badges for our bus riders during SLPS' open house events. Each campus will be presented with a bulk of name-specific badges to be distributed to students.

<p><b>What are your concerns about Zum falling behind schedule in bus delivery, bus yard acquisition and bus driver hiring?</b></p>	<p>Zum has hired 240 drivers, but its goal is to have 280 drivers ready for the first day of school as Zum prefers to operate with a surplus of drivers to account for sick call-outs, etc.</p> <p>SLPS' Transportation Department meets daily with Zum to monitor and discuss key aspects of the transition, including fleet delivery, bus yard acquisition, driver staffing, and training. Progress continues to be tracked closely. Active collaboration with Zum to mitigate any risks, and ensure a smooth start to the school year, is ongoing.</p>
<p><b>What should I do if my child is temporarily displaced and needs transportation to an alternative address?</b></p>	<p>If your child is temporarily displaced, we encourage you to contact our Student Support Services. They can assist you in registering your student for the Students in Transition program or the McKinney-Vento Act services. This will ensure that your child's temporary address is <u>recorded</u> for transportation purposes.</p>
<p><b>What if my child has a new permanent address due to the storm?</b></p>	<p>For students who have been affected by the storm and who now reside at a new permanent address, we will ensure they are placed on an existing bus route that corresponds to their new address location. This will ensure appropriate transportation to and from school.</p>
<p><b>What about students who live less than a mile from their school?</b></p>	<p>Students residing less than a mile from their designated school are still classified as "walkers." We will, however, provide bus services for these students. They will be picked up at their original school and transported to their designated host school. The same process will be implemented for their return home, ensuring they are safely transported back to their original address.</p>
<p><b>How will student transportation be managed for students whose schools have been temporarily relocated?</b></p>	<p>We will maintain our standard transportation protocols, ensuring that designated routes are established for students to their respective host schools. While some existing bus routes may be modified to optimize logistics, new routes will also be created as necessary to meet our objectives for punctuality. Our goal is to keep travel times under one hour, even to temporary locations. While there may be slight adjustments to pick-up and drop-off times due to increased ridership, we will strive to minimize disruptions.</p>



<b>Will all students who previously received bus transportation continue to receive it at the new location?</b>	All students who previously received bus transportation will continue to have this service at their new locations. There will be no changes to the eligibility criteria for transportation services. Furthermore, the Transportation Department has developed bus routes specifically designed for students who typically walk to school, ensuring they are transported to and from their original home school to their host school. For students with special transportation needs, accommodations mandated by individualized education programs (IEPs) will remain consistent, adhering to all outlined transportation-related services.
<b>What are the plans for students who typically use public transit (MetroLink)?</b>	For students who typically utilize public transit services such as MetroLink, they will be assigned to yellow school bus routes for the 2025-26 school year. Consequently, students who previously received Metro passes will also transition to these designated bus routes. Our transportation department will provide guidance to assist students in navigating the new transportation framework. Additionally, to address safety concerns, our team, in conjunction with the Safety & Security department, will ensure that field supervisors are present to monitor student safety during transit.
<b>How will the district ensure the safety and security of students during transportation to and from the temporary schools?</b>	The district will adhere to established student management guidelines and leverage advanced technology through our new transportation partner, Zum Services LLC. This partnership enables us to access real-time reports on bus routes, enhancing our monitoring capabilities. Increased supervision will be provided at bus stops and public transit hubs as needed, in collaboration with our Safety & Security team.
<b>What is the communication protocol for transportation changes, delays, or emergencies?</b>	In the event of any transportation changes, delays, or emergencies, SLPS, along with Zum Services, will disseminate immediate communications through Zum's information app, email notifications, and phone calls if necessary. Families will receive updates regarding schedule changes and issues through direct email notifications and the Zum parent app. For any transportation-related inquiries, the SLPS Transportation office will remain accessible via a dedicated call center.

<b>What options are available for families who prefer to transport their children themselves, and will there be any support for mileage reimbursement or parking at the temporary schools?</b>	Families who prefer to transport their children independently are welcome to do so; however, please note that SLPS will not provide mileage reimbursement or parking support at temporary school locations. Zum Services is fully equipped to accommodate all transportation needs.
<b>How will the district address potential overcrowding or capacity issues on buses or public transit due to the increased number of students using specific routes?</b>	To manage potential overcrowding or capacity challenges due to increased student ridership, Zum Services has a fleet of over 240 yellow school buses, which will facilitate the necessary routes and accommodate additional students effectively.
<b>Gang Activity and Conflict Resolution</b>	
<b>What specific measures will SLPS implement to prevent and address potential gang-related activity or conflicts that may arise from combining student populations?</b>	School staff at each site have familiarity with students and families from their respective schools. Supervision plans will be in place to ensure all students are adequately supervised. Collaboration between all personnel is necessary to develop common expectations for all students. Students continue to have access to social workers, Family and Community Specialists, and other non-classroom-based staff to support positive school culture.
<b>How will SLPS collaborate with local law enforcement and</b>	SLPS maintains active partnerships with SLMPD and first responders. All school administrators and SLPS Safety Officers have direct lines to SLPS Dispatch and designated SLMPD

<b>community organizations to monitor and mitigate gang-related risks in and around the temporary school locations?</b>	contacts. This will ensure rapid coordination for response and de-escalation. SLPS adheres strictly to FERPA regulations.
<b>What specific intervention programs or strategies will be utilized for students who may be at risk of gang involvement or who are already affiliated?</b>	School counselors, social workers, and Family Support Specialists will continue to be available for students and families.
<b>What role will parents and the community play in preventing and addressing gang activity during this transition?</b>	Parents and the community are the most integral part of preventing and addressing gang activity. Parents and the community are encouraged to contact schools and work with school leaders along with support staff (i.e., Family Support Specialists) to provide support and report any suspicious behavior. We encourage parents, students, and the community to use platforms such as Courage2Report to report any information.