

From: [Superintendent](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: School bus, election, SBA, and EXPO!
Date: Monday, April 25, 2016 9:46:09 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Colleague:

About school buses:

You may have seen news reports about elementary students affected by the heat on an Emerson Elementary afternoon bus route last week. The combination of heat and the bus driver's actions, which were not up to Durham's or the district's standards, have generated media interest, created questions and generated some misinformation about what happened.

Durham has assured me the driver involved will no longer be behind the wheel of a bus with Everett Public Schools students. Emerson staff and administrators have been in touch with students and their families on that particular bus route. Some parents have visited the school since the incident and been present when students embark on their rides home in the bus.

Durham Transportation Services is in the process of contacting each family, expressing their disappointment about the incident and affirming their commitment to the safety of each student they transport.

We want each student safe in our schools and on our buses – and overwhelmingly students are safe. Consider the numbers:

- In our district, 106 Durham bus drivers cover 103 bus routes every day.
- They transport 13,475 students safely to and from school each day.
- Students ride those buses two times a day for 180 days per year back and forth to school.
- If you factor in field trips, those numbers mean Durham provides more than 5 million student trips per year.
- Durham buses drive 1,526,761 miles per year

The overwhelming majority of these trips take students to and from their destinations safely. We and Durham can be proud of that safety record. And we can work together to respond quickly and appropriately in isolated incidents when student safety is in question.

About tomorrow

By the end of the day tomorrow, we'll likely have a good idea of the bond and levy election results. Thank you to all who have helped share information about the election issues and answered questions from the community.

Thank you!

The week after spring break schools were immediately deeply committed to SBA testing. After months of preparing students to demonstrate their best work, the testing days kicked off without a hitch, giving students the best possible opportunities to do well. Thank you to all who helped set the stage and are supporting the testing happening now.

Kudos to our five 2015 Washington Achievement Schools – Cedar Wood, Gateway, Mill Creek, Monroe, and Whittier. On May 10 the school board will honor those school communities for their work to continually and continuously

support students learning to high standards.

Looking into the future

June 6 is the district's [Innovation Expo](#) at Xfinity Arena. You're seeing posters in the schools already, and this week, you'll see business card-sized mini-posters in your school offices. Please take a few of these and share as a way to spread news about the event. I'm eagerly anticipating this Expo.

I'm also looking forward to the remaining weeks of this school year and seeing you and students amidst the exciting and innovative learning activities happening in each of our schools.

Warm wishes,
Gary