

Forsyth County Schools Transportation Department Operational Overview

August 11, 2026





FCS Transportation Department

Purpose

To provide safe, reliable school bus transportation services every day connecting our students to unparalleled learning experiences that will allow them to thrive in school and in life.



2025-26 FCS Transportation Routes & Ridership Data

	Total Students Enrolled	Total Students Transported	Total # Bus Routes	Ridership %	Avg # Riders Per Bus Route	SE Total Students Transported	Total # SE Bus Routes	Avg # Riders Per SE Bus Route
TOTAL	53,696	32,046	770	59.7%	41	1,380	283	6
ELEMENTARY	22,294	14,480	343	65%	43	680	109	7
MIDDLE	13,197	9,207	230	69.8%	42	303	75	5
HIGH	18,205	7,038	197	38.7%	37	241	56	5
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	COMPASS, Gateway/ACE, I-FOCUS, EFHS PALS, HEAD START, PROJECT LIFE, Jacob's Ladder					156	43	4

2025-26 FCS Transportation Field/Activity Trip Data

Trip Type	Total # Trips	Total # Trip Buses Assigned	Total Mileage	Total Mileage Cost (@ \$2.00 per mile)	Driver Cost (Salary)	Estimated Cost (Driver + Fuel)
Activity/Field Trips	4,118	6,412	266,838	\$ 533,676.00	\$ 617,015.00	\$ 1,150,691.00
CBI/CBVI Trips	2,180	2,895	44,599	\$ 89,197.00	\$ 269,053.00	\$ 358,250.00
ALL	6,298 (+809)	9,307 (+254)	311,437 (+62,294)	\$ 622,873.00 (+ \$ 124,587.00)	\$ 886,068.00 (+ \$66,406.00)	\$ 1,508,941.00 (+ \$ 198,452.00)

July 2025 Staffing

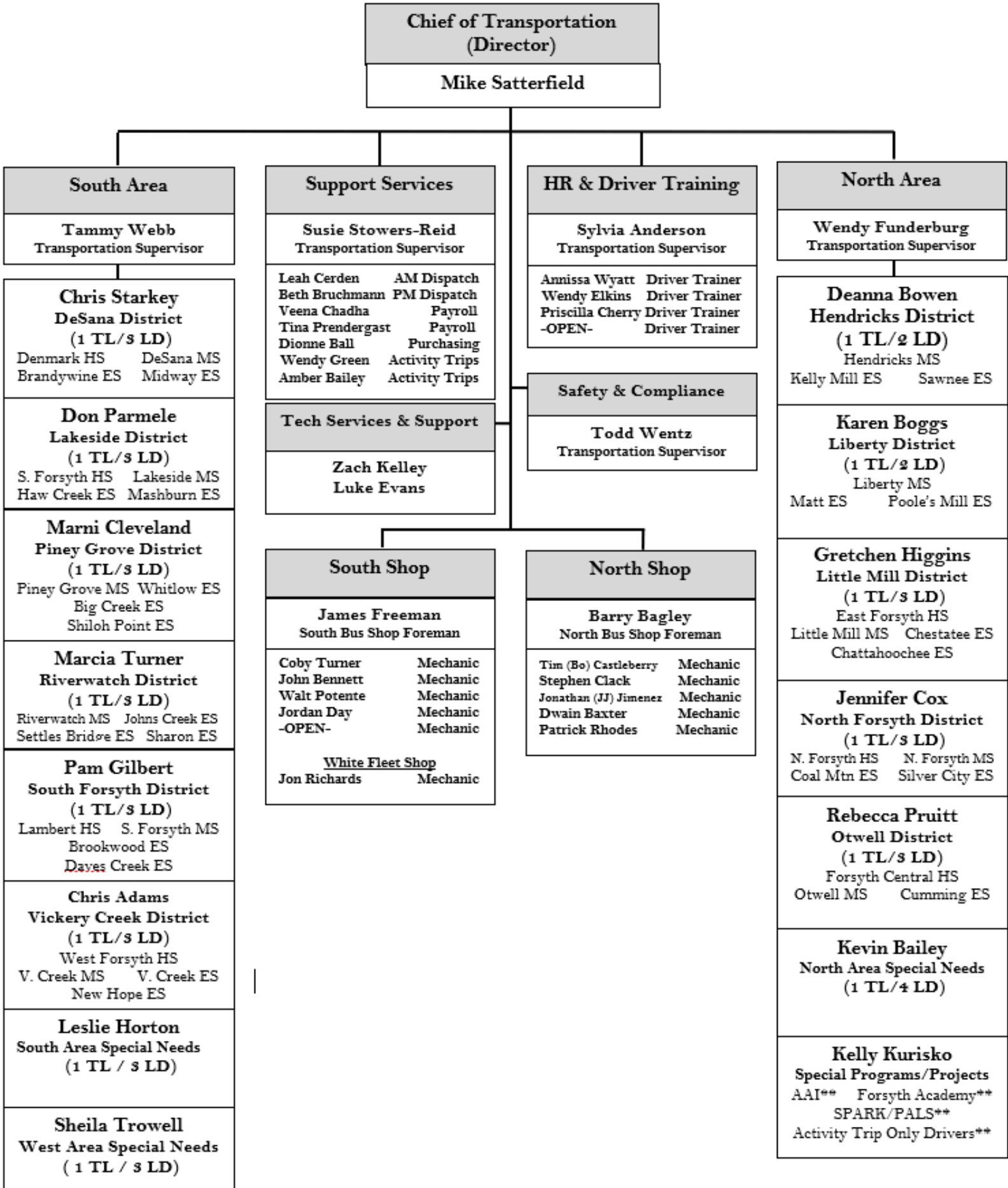
<u>Transportation Staff--TOTAL</u>	<u>521</u>
Full-Time Bus Drivers (420)	394
Full-Time Special Education Bus Monitors (80)	73
Part-Time Activity/Field Trip Drivers	9
Chief of Transportation (1)	1
Transportation Supervisors (5)	5
District Supervisors (Field Coordinators) (14)	14
Driver-Trainers (4)	4
Vehicle Mechanics (12)	12
<u>Administrative/Support Staff (9)</u>	<u>9</u>
School Admin/Teachers/Coaches w/ CDL	51
**Open FT Bus Driver Positions	25
**Projected Open FT Bus Driver Positions 8/5/25	6
**Open FT Bus Monitor Positions	3

July 2026 Staffing

<u>Transportation Staff--TOTAL</u>	<u>493</u>
Full-Time Bus Drivers (420)	362
Full-Time Special Education Bus Monitors (80)	76
Part-Time Activity/Field Trip Drivers	11
Chief of Transportation (1)	1
Transportation Supervisors (5)	5
District Supervisors (Field Coordinators) (15)	15
Driver-Trainers (4)	4
Vehicle Mechanics (12)	10
<u>Administrative/Support Staff (9)</u>	<u>9</u>
School Admin/Teachers/Coaches w/ CDL	49
**Open FT Bus Driver Positions	58
**Projected Open FT Bus Driver Positions 8/6/26	52
**Open FT Bus Monitor Positions	4

FCS Transportation: Department Structure & Operations

July 2026



2025-26 FCS Transportation School Bus Fleet / Vehicle Age

Model Year	72 Passenger Buses	SE Buses w/ Lift	Activity Trip	TOTAL
2016-2026	225 (+14)	98 (+11)	20	343 (+25)
2005-2015	118 (-23)	38 (-9)	0	156 (-32)
2001-2004	16 (-20)	3 (-4)	0	19 (-24)
TOTAL BUS FLEET	379 (-29)	139 (-2)	20 (0)	518 (-31)

Average FCS Transportation School Bus Age

8.90 Years (-1.66 yrs)

****FCS also owns & operates 122 (+13) White Fleet support vehicles (cars, vans, trucks)****

SPLOST 6 Project Investments (2023-2026)

SPLOST 6 Projects (Ongoing)**

TOTAL SPLOST 6 Funds Allotted + \$ 16,920,778.00

GaDOE State Bus Funds Allotted (23-26) + \$ 2,995,740.00

TOTAL Allotted Funds (All Sources) + \$ 19,916,518.00

TOTAL Expenditures To Date - \$ 18,667,121.00**

TOTAL Funds Remaining \$ 1,249,397.00

****includes expenditures & encumbered funds**

School Buses (New & Replacement)

- Dec 2023 6 buses \$ 870,000.00
- Mar 2024 20 buses \$ 2,713,260.00
- July 2024 20 buses \$ 2,706,620.00
- Aug 2024 51 buses \$ 7,904,117.00
- Sept 2025 14 buses \$ 2,000,723.00

TOTAL 111 buses \$ 16,194,720.00

****All SPLOST 6 Projects = Debt Free****

SPLOST 6 Projects (Ongoing)**

TOTAL Allotted Funds \$ 19,916,518.00

TOTAL Expenditures To Date \$ 18,667,121.00**

TOTAL Funds Remaining \$ 1,249,397.00

****includes expenditures & encumbered funds**

Additional Transportation/Bus Equipment Costs

March 2024 Shop Truck Purchase (6)	\$ 436,836.00
April 2026 Shop Truck Purchase (2)	\$ 174,540.00
Bus Engine Rebuilds (26 Buses)	\$ 897,316.00
Bus/Truck Radios	\$ 832,455.00
Bus GPS Hardware	\$ 31,254.00
<u>Bus Right Navigation Tablets (100)</u>	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,472,401.00

****All SPLOST 6 Projects = Debt Free****

FCS Transportation School Bus Safety Equipment

LED Lighted Bus Signage

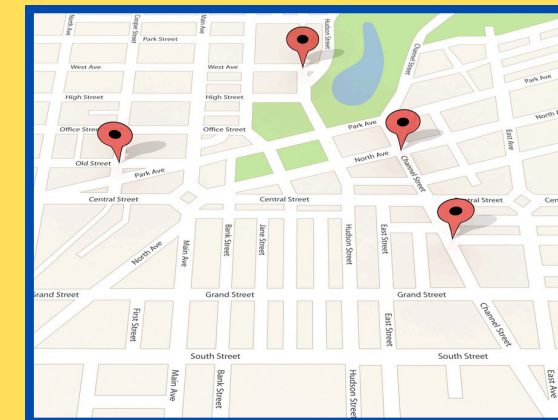
- Starting with December 2023 new bus purchases, all new FCS school buses are equipped with LED Lighted bus signage (school bus signs & stop signs).
- FCS Transportation is also retrofitting all fleet buses from 2016 model year forward.



Radio & GPS Equipment



All FCS Transportation Bus Radios on Forsyth County EMS / First Responder Radio Network



All FCS Transportation Buses Equipped with GPS Vehicle Tracking



Back Up Cameras

Starting with December 2023 new bus purchases, all new FCS school buses are equipped with a back-up camera.



FCS Transportation is installing & implementing Bus Right navigation tablets during the 2026-27 school year. (routing, dispatching tools & communication tools, map turn-by-turn navigation, parent bus location app).

FCS Transportation Propane Fuel & Bus Update

Presentation Item 9/12/23 BOE Work Session

- Reduce overall fuel cost
- Reduce bus maintenance cost
- Reduce environmental compliance cost
- Increase environmental emissions compliance

Spring 2024 - Fall 2024

- Propane RFP / Award to Ferrell Gas
- 20 propane bus purchase (Yancey/Bluebird)

Spring 2025

- Propane Fuel Station Installed (2 dispensers)
- 20 propane buses delivered

Fall 2025

- All Buses & Fuel Station Fully Operational

Spring 2026

- 20 propane buses delivered (40 total)

Summer 2026

- Propane Fuel Station Expanded (+2 dispensers)

****Propane Fuel & Bus Project = Debt Free****



FCS & Forsyth County Government Fuel IGA

Forsyth County Schools / Forsyth County Fuel IGA

- In November 2025, Forsyth County Schools and Forsyth County Government executed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that allows FCS buses/vehicles to access diesel & gas pumps at Fowler Park and allows Forsyth County transit buses to access the FCS propane fuel station at our North Bus Shop (next to North Forsyth High School).
- This agreement reduces the amount of time and mileage FCS bus drivers assigned to Denmark HS, DeSana MS, and Midway ES use to fuel their buses (next closest fuel station is located at the FCS South Bus Shop (next to Lambert High School).
- Estimated cost savings approximately \$12,500 per year in additional time & mileage.



Special Use Buses



SPARK Program Buses (2024-25 School Year)

- Seat belts & equipment for SPARK! Program families
- Purchased through SPARK! Program federal grant funds

Activity/Field Trip Buses (2025-26 School Year)

- 20 bus purchase (Yancey/Bluebird)
- Gasoline powered
- Additional luggage/equipment storage
- Lap & shoulder seat belts

CTAE Activity 14+1 Bus (2025-26 School Year)

- No CDL requirement
- Intended for smaller CTAE club/group use
- Purchased through CTAE funds

****All Special Use Bus Purchases = Debt Free****

Fleet Inspection & Safety Information

GaDOE Board Rule 160-5-3-.03

REQUIREMENTS:

- (a) Local units of administration shall ensure that all school buses are inspected annually by the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety.
- (b) Local units of administration maintenance or service personnel shall inspect all school buses monthly and record the results on forms provided by the Department of Education. A local form may be used in lieu of the department's form upon approval from the department.
- (c) The local system superintendent shall notify the Department of Education in writing of any material or construction defect found in new school buses.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 20-2-188; 40-8-220

Adopted: June 13, 2002 Effective



Fleet Inspection & Safety Information

GADPS/MCCD ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

- Each school year, the Georgia Dept. of Public Safety/ Motor Carrier Compliance Division conducts an annual school bus inspection of every school bus in the FCS Transportation fleet.
- 2nd Week of August (M-F)--Mon 8/11 - Fri 8/15 & Mon 8/18
- 51 Point Comprehensive Inspection of ALL bus systems & component (Bus Interior, Exterior, Engine Compartment, Underneath Bus)

20 SCHOOL DAY (MONTHLY) INSPECTIONS

- Every school bus in the FCS Transportation fleet is inspected every 20 days by FCS Transportation mechanics.
- Inspections will be performed creating equal 20 school day intervals between inspections.
- Inspections shall be scheduled/performed in the same order for each 20 school day interval.
- 45 point inspection of ALL major bus systems (safety devices, brakes, tires, front end, drive train, bus body).

Daily Pre-Trip & Post-Trip Inspections

- Every FCS school bus driver inspects their assigned school bus daily before & after each bus route/trip.
- 39 Point Inspection (Bus Interior, Exterior, Engine Compartment, Underneath Bus)
- Pre-Trip Inspection (39 bus components & systems)
- Post-Trip Inspection (13 steps to secure/park bus)

New Bus & Driver Inspections

- New Bus Inspections identifying consistent and/or major defects shall be recorded on form "School Bus Defect Report" (Rev. 5/10/2008) upon delivery and submitted to GaDOE.
- Driver Inspections: There is to be a standardized, documented method for drivers to report school bus mechanical problems to the maintenance staff.

Student & Driver Safety/Training Programs

New Bus Driver Training

All FCS school bus drivers are required to complete a training program mandated by the Georgia Department of Education and implemented by the FCS Transportation Driver Training Department.

- Criminal Background & MVR Check
- GaDOE Physical Exam
- CDL Class B License w/ Passenger (P) and School Bus (S) Endorsements
- Minimum of 12 hours of driving (6 with students; 6 without students)
- Must pass both written CDL licensing test required by Georgia Department of Driver Services AND practical driving test administered by certified FCS Transportation staff.

****FCS offers up to 60 hours of paid new bus driver training, including payment of fees required for CDL license.****

Annual Bus Driver Safety Training Program

Each July & August, all FCS employees who drive a school bus are required to complete the annual Safety Renewal Education Program (S.R.E.P.) training offered by the Georgia Dept of Education Pupil Transportation Division.

Annual Bus Driver Physical Exams

Each June & July, all FCS employees who drive a school bus are required to pass an annual physical/medical exam that meets Georgia Dept of Education requirements.

Employee Drug & Alcohol Testing Program

All FCS employees who drive a school bus are required to participate in an annual random drug & alcohol testing program.

FCS Transportation is required to test 50% of our bus driving employees for drugs and 10% of our employees for alcohol each calendar year (Jan - Dec).

S.O.A.R. Student Safety Program

(Safe, Orderly & Respectful)

Teaches students how to wait at the bus stop, cross the street, follow bus driver directions, enter/exit the bus, behave safely while riding the bus, and how to evacuate the school bus through the emergency door.

Pre-K S.O.A.R.: FCS Transportation offers our S.O.A.R. student safety program to local Pre-K Programs & Pre-School Programs every Spring.

S.O.A.R. Program: FCS Transportation offers our S.O.A.R. student safety program to all enrolled K-5 students at each of our elementary schools every August - October.

Emergency Evacuation Drills

All FCS school bus drivers are required to complete school bus emergency evacuation drills with students twice per school year. (Fall & Spring)

Annual School Bus Driver Skills Assessment

All FCS school bus drivers are required to complete and pass an annual bus driver skills assessment once per school year. (Spring)

Questions or Comments?

