

# Shrewsbury Public Schools Transportation Update September 21, 2016

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# Topics

- Services & Contracted Providers
- Vehicles and Routes
- Contract and Rates
- System Changes: 2016-2017
- Ridership
- State Reimbursements
- FY17 Budget
- Future Considerations

# Services & Contracted Providers

Service	Vendor	Notes
Regular day [aka Home to School]	AA Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Shrewsbury Public Schools</li> <li>▶ Assabet Valley Reg. Technical H.S.</li> <li>▶ St. Mary, St. John's, Al-Hamra, Montessori</li> </ul>
Out of District-Special Education	Assabet Valley Collaborative	▶ Private school placements throughout the state.
Athletic Competitions	AA Transportation	▶ High school and limited middle school events
Homeless Students	Varied	▶ Includes busing students sheltering in other towns back to SPS and students sheltering in Shrewsbury to other public school systems
Summer School	AA Transportation	For special education students with transportation in their IEP
Field Trips ["yellow bus"]	AA Transportation	Coach buses contracted separately for long trips or special events

# Vehicles and Routes [“Regular Day Busing”]

- Vehicles

- 41 , 77 seat buses
  - 38 for public & private schools
  - 3 for Assabet Valley Reg. Tech. H.S.
- 6, 34 seat half-buses 3 with wheel chair lift
- All equipped with two video cameras
- All equipped with GPS devices with live monitoring of location, speed, stops
- All equipped with two-way radios
- All drivers also have cell-phone capacity in event of emergency
- All model year 2011 or newer

- 248 Total Routes

- Morning= 118
- Mid-day= 14
- Afternoon= 116



# Contract and Rates

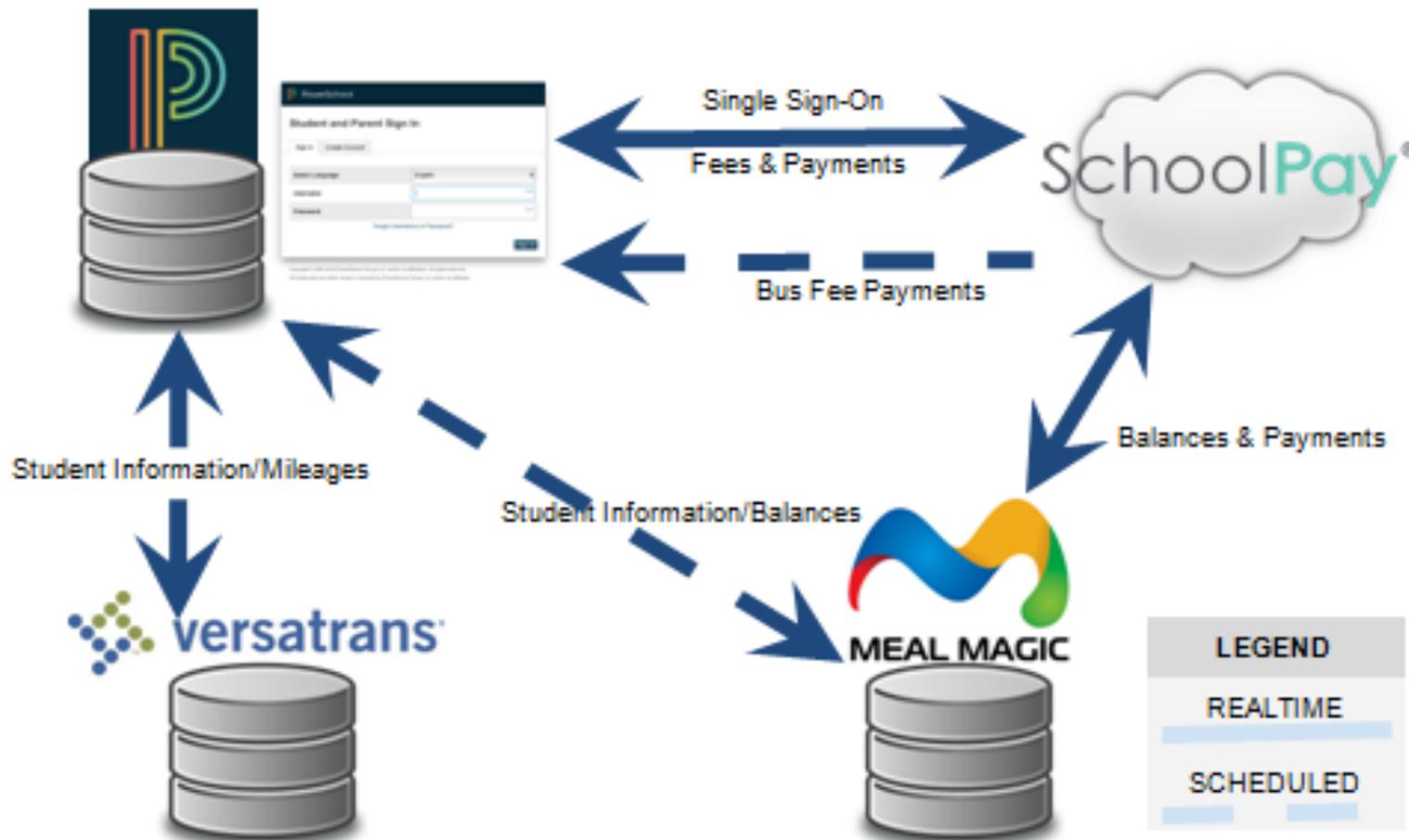
- Service is bid per MGL Chapter 30B
- Current five-year contract with AA Transportation effective FY14-FY18
- FY17 Rate is \$330.14 per bus per day which equates to \$59,425 per bus per school year. Contract allows for annual increase tied to the Consumer Price Index
- Most buses operate on 3-tier system with a high school, middle school, and elementary school route each morning and afternoon. Some buses also have a mid-day commitment for half-day kindergarten or preschool.

# System Changes: 2016-2017

- Registration and payment systems were re-engineered to incorporate online payment option and automated “approvals” upon completion of payment, if required
- The registration deadline was changed from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> with the hope that fewer would have to pay a late fee
- All special education students with specialized transportation were automatically registered obviating the need for parents to do this
- Assabet and private school registrations shifted from a paper-based system to an online *Googleform* and emailed bus information instead of a mailed letter

# Online Payment System

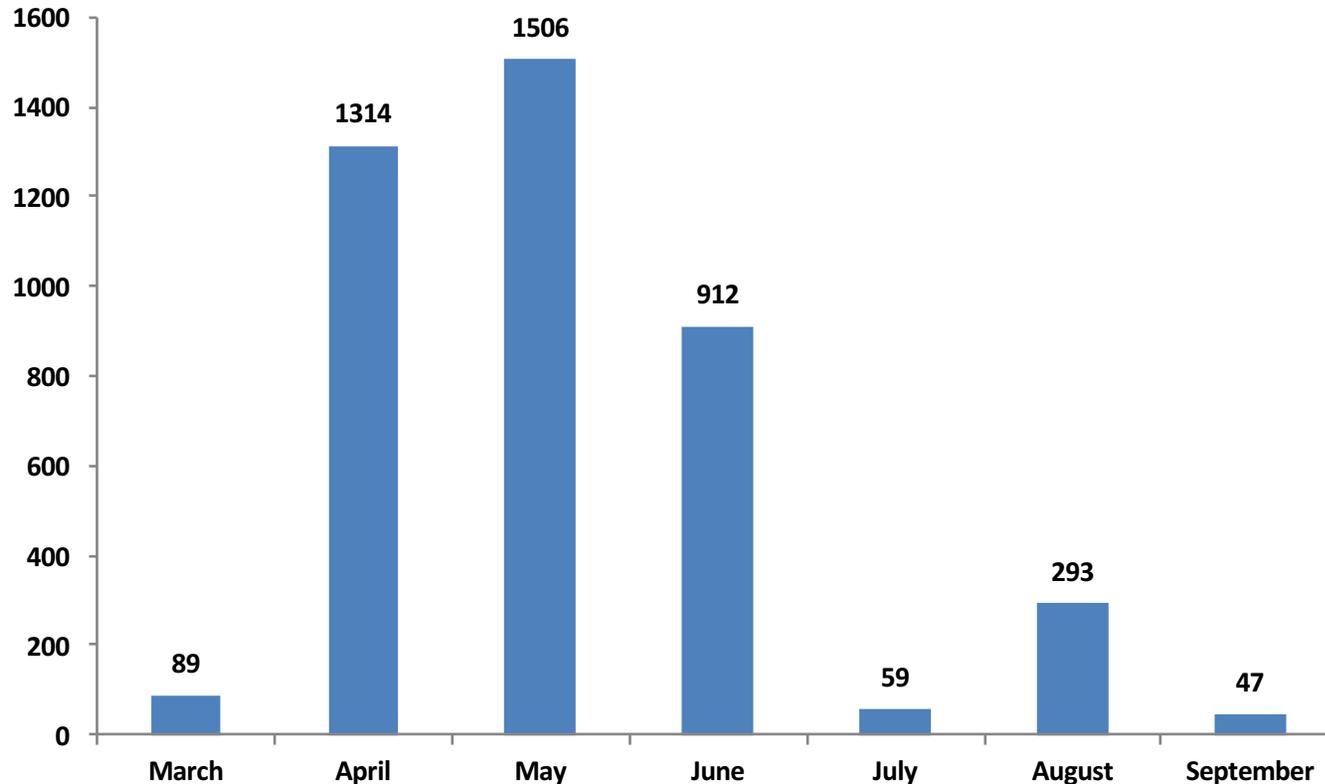
## Systems Design Flow Chart



# Ridership

School District	Riders
Shrewsbury Public Schools	4,361
Assabet Valley Regional Tech. H.S.	118
St. John's High School	52
St. Mary School	54
Al Hamra Academy	49
Montessori School	14
Out of District Students	50
<b>Total Daily Riders</b>	<b>4,698</b>

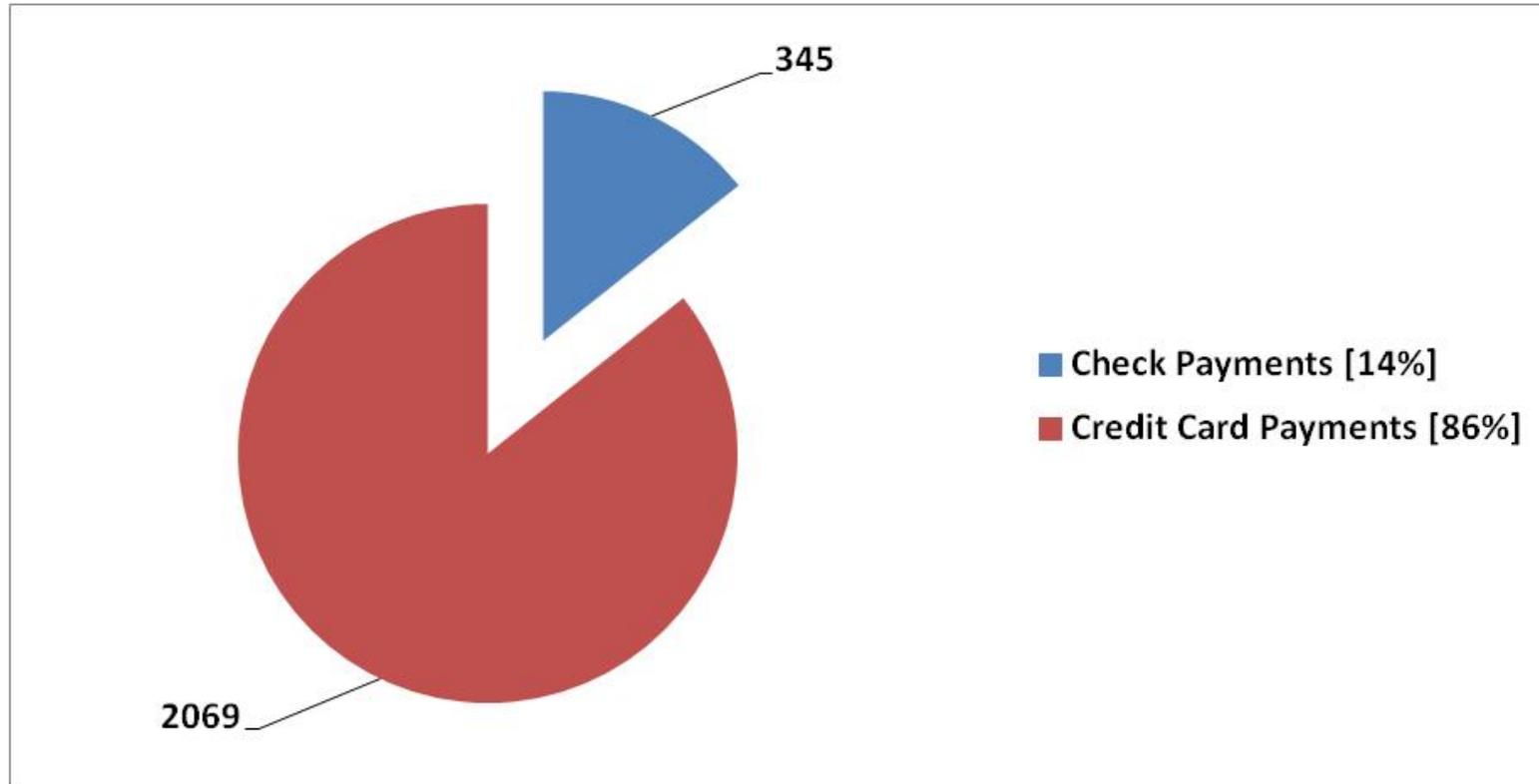
# S.P.S. Registrations by Month



We launched “pilot program” in March to test new systems.  
Public rollout of registration and payment began in April.

So far, 157 families paid a late registration fee. The remainder of July through September registrations are new students to the district.

# Payment Method



Strong preference of parents to pay by credit card.

# Average Cost v. Fee

- 4,499 students currently registered in district, private schools, and Assabet
- Total budget of \$3,083,289
- Average cost=\$656/student
- Fee=\$275/student

# FY17 Budget

Transportation Service	FY17 All Budgets	Notes
Regular Day	\$ 2,267,130	\$1.6M Oper. Budget and \$645K funded via fee revenue
Special Education: Out of District & In-District	\$ 1,433,715	Funded via special education grant
Bus Monitors	\$ 277,611	Operating Budget
Vocational	\$ 181,967	Operating Budget
Athletics	\$ 110,000	Operating Budget
Special Education: Summer	\$ 65,724	Operating Budget
Homeless	\$ 45,000	Operating Budget
High School Clubs/Events [Speech & Debate]	\$ 10,000	Operating Budget
Music Performances/Events	\$ 4,570	Operating Budget
<b>Transportation Services- All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 4,395,717</b>	

# State Reimbursements

Type	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17 est.
Out of District-Vocational	■ \$89,646 ■ 86.93%	■ \$0 ■ 0%	■ \$95,274 ■ 54.6%	■ \$14,053 ■ 7.8%
Homeless	■ \$28,341 ■ 50.83%	■ \$7,456 ■ 34.4%	■ \$16,113 ■ 36.1%	■ \$5,051 ■ 31%

**Notes:**

1. These are general fund receipts and not at disposal or available for direct use by School Dept.
2. Variability from year to year makes it difficult to budget for this revenue.
3. Timing of state budget approval in July does not allow for precise budgeting at municipal level in May.

# Fee Based Program

- Operating an efficient operation with fixed routes and stops
- Increased expectations for service when some parents pay
- These two things sometimes conflict

# Future Considerations for Operational Improvement

- Assessment of “start-of-school” issues that re-occur each year and may be preventable
- Review eligibility and service levels for in-district special education transportation
- Review impact and viability of Bus Change Request Process
- Refine Assabet and private school registrations and communications to current and prospective parents