

## **Athletic Transportation in the Lake Washington School District**

Typically transportation is provided to athletic events/competitions. There may be instances, sometimes in the case of small teams traveling close to their home school, where a team does not use district-provided transportation.

Coaches work with their athletic director and athletic secretary at the beginning of the season to determine:

- Which competitions require transportation;
- The number of student-athletes and coaches that need transportation;
- Any special equipment requirements (for example the ability to store a pole vault pole);
- Any unique requirements such as transportation between a hotel and the event; and
- The time of departure and return (if necessary).

The athletic secretary submits these requests to our transportation department who then set out to fulfill the requests. The type of transportation that a team may receive is dependent on several factors:

- The time of day that the trip originates
  - We have a contractual agreement with district school bus drivers to offer them the first opportunity to accept a trip request.
  - Typically, a school district bus and driver will be used for trips that originate after 4 p.m. on a weekday or anytime on the weekend.
  - As the cost for a charter bus can run two to three times more than the cost of a school bus, teams may be asked if there is flexibility in departure times so that a school bus can fulfill the trip.
  - A school bus may be used for the return trip if the length of the event is such that it is more economical to release the charter and bring in a second bus.
- The number of passengers
  - Very small teams may use a district van and smaller teams may use charter shuttles rather than a full size school bus or charter bus.
- Unique storage requirements
  - Some sports that have significant equipment needs will require buses that have compartment storage.
- Availability of buses
  - How early a trip request is submitted is a factor in determining what buses are available. Trips are processed on a first come, first served basis.
  - If a school district driver is unavailable to accept a trip, then the district submits the trip to several charter companies that it has agreements with.
  - If the first charter company is not able to accept the request, then the request is passed along to the next charter company.
  - There are times of peak demand where a bus is not available and the transportation department works to modify existing trips or work with the school to modify trip requests to find ways to ensure that all students are able to safely arrive at their destination.

We typically submit trips for known post-season events at the beginning of the season to reduce the likelihood that a bus will not be available. During state championship weekends the demand for transportation across the state peaks and frequently a number of schools/teams across the state are unable to acquire a bus and driver to get to their event.

Unfortunately, there are times where a charter company cancels a trip or a bus simply does not show. In these cases, the transportation department works with the school to try and find alternative transportation if available.