



2025 AP-NORC/HopSkipDrive School Transportation Parent Survey

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
in partnership with HopSkipDrive

*Interviews: 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
838 adults*

Margin of error: +/- 4.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Q1. Are you the parent or guardian of ...

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025	Yes	No	DK	SKP/REF
A child attending elementary school (kindergarten through 5 th grade)	56	44	-	-
A child attending middle school (6 th through 8 th grade)	42	58	-	-
A child attending high school (9 th through 12 th grade)	52	48	-	-
A child between the ages of 5 and 17 attending a remote or online school	14	86	-	-

N=838

Q2. How many children do you have currently attending a K-12 school?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
1	44
2	37
3	14
4	5
5	1
10	*
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N =

838

Q3. How does your child/do your children typically get to and from school? If they commute using multiple different methods, please select all that apply.

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
I drive them	63
Partner/spouse or another family member drives them	33
Carpool with multiple families	5
School bus	43
School-arranged supplemental transportation services in cars or vans	1
Walk or ride a bike	13
Public transportation	3
A car service you pay for like a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	1
They drive themselves ¹	6
Other	*
N/A (homeschool/remote learning) (VOL)	1
Childcare provides transportation (VOL)	1
None of the above	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N =

838

¹ Only respondents who are parents or guardians of a child attending high school in Q1C were shown this response option. Percent reported is among all respondents.

Q4. How safe do you think each of the following types of transportation is for your child/children to use when commuting to and from school?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025	Very/ somewhat safe NET	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Very/ somewhat unsafe NET	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	DK	SKP/ REF
Carpool with another parent or family	76	31	44	16	7	5	2	-	1
Carpool with another student	57	12	46	23	20	16	4	-	*
School bus	78	31	46	13	9	7	2	-	*
School-arranged supplemental transportation services in cars or vans	63	19	45	25	11	8	2	-	1
Walk or ride a bike	33	9	24	20	46	24	22	-	2
Public transportation	32	8	24	28	39	24	15	-	1
A hired car service like a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	28	5	23	25	47	24	23	-	*
<i>If parent or guardian of child attending high school in Q1C</i> Driving themselves (N=409)	46	8	38	25	27	14	12	-	2

N=838

If does not typically use school bus in Q3

Q5. What is the main reason your child doesn't/children don't typically take the school bus to or from school?

[RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
The commute takes too long	3
It's not available in my area	32
School bus services have been eliminated or reduced	6
Safety concerns	14
It's easier to commute a different way	20
The timing doesn't work with our schedule	10
Some other reason	16
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N =

529

Q6. How long does your child/do your children typically spend getting to and from school every day? Please estimate total roundtrip time, and if you have multiple children, please answer for the child whose commute time is the longest.

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Under 15 minutes	45
15-29 minutes	30
30-44 minutes	16
45 minutes-1 hour	7
More than 1 hour	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N =

838

If typically are driven, driven by partner/spouse or family member, carpool, use public transportation, use a car service, or drive themselves in Q3

Q7. Is the commute to and from school usually...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
A commute only to take children to school	61
A combined commute to work, errands or other activities	39
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N =</i>	<i>659</i>

Q8. How much of a problem is traffic congestion around the school during pick up and drop off times?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Major problem	22
Minor problem	48
Not a problem	27
Not sure	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N =</i>	<i>838</i>

Q9. During the last school year, how often was your child/were your children late to school because of issues with transportation?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Never	55
A few times a year	34
Monthly	5
Weekly	3
Multiple times a week	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N =</i>	<i>838</i>

Q10. How often does your child's/children's school transportation schedule conflict with your work or other responsibilities?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Never	42
A few times a year	31
Monthly	9
Weekly	5
Multiple times a week	10
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	3

N =

838

Q11. How often do you find yourself stressing about your child's/children's transportation needs in general?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Never	43
A few times a year	31
Monthly	10
Weekly	8
Multiple times a week	6
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N =

838

Q12. If your child's/children's typical school transportation method became permanently unavailable for some reason, what would you consider doing instead? Please select all that apply.

[RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Adjust the family schedule	52
Ask a friend or family member to help	52
Use a hired car service like a taxi, Uber or Lyft	5
Use public transportation	9
Change schools	6
Change to online school or remote learning	12
Hire childcare to help with drop off or pick up	9
Your child/children would miss school more often	9
Other	2
Walk or ride a bike (VOL)	2
School bus (VOL)	1
Drive them (VOL)	2
They would drive themselves (VOL)	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N =

838

Q13. Does your child/Do your children participate in any of the following organized by their school?

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025	Yes	No	DK	SKP/REF
Before-school care	8	91	-	1
After-school care	18	81	-	1
Extracurricular activities such as sports or clubs that take place BEFORE school	17	82	-	1
Extracurricular activities such as sports or clubs that take place AFTER school	55	43	-	1

N = 838

If yes to any in Q13

Q14. How does your child/do your children typically get to and from their extracurricular activities or before or after-care organized by their school? If they commute using multiple different methods, please select all that apply.

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
I drive them	75
Partner/spouse or another family member drives them	50
Carpool with multiple families	18
School bus	13
School-arranged supplemental transportation services in cars or vans	4
Walk or ride a bike	10
Public transportation	3
A car service you pay for like a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	1
They drive themselves ²	9
The activity takes place at school	18
Other	*
None of the above	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N =

541

² Only respondents who are parents or guardians of a child attending high school in Q1C were shown this response option. Percent reported is among all respondents.

If no to any in Q13

Q15. Is each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason that your child does not/children do not participate in extracurricular activities or before or after-care organized by their school?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason	DK	SKP/ REF
They are too busy with other activities	14	28	56	-	1
They aren't interested	27	29	44	-	*
Transportation isn't available to get to and from the activity	14	23	63	-	1
It is too expensive	15	27	58	-	1

N=813

Q16. How often has your child/have your children missed each of the following in the last school year because of issues with transportation?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025	Never	A few times a year	Monthly	Weekly	Multiple times a week	Not applicable for my child/ children	DK	SKP/REF
Extracurricular activities	59	17	4	3	2	14	-	1
School services, such as school meals or counseling	62	11	4	4	2	16	-	1
Field trips	75	9	5	2	1	8	-	1
Tutoring or academic help	59	8	4	3	2	23	-	1

N=838

Q16A. How likely would you be to do each of the following if easier transportation options were available?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025- 07/11/2025	Extremely/ very likely NET	Extremely likely	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too/not at all likely NET	Not too likely	Not at all likely	DK	SKP/ REF
Send my child/children to a different school	10	4	7	17	72	25	47	-	1
Sign my child/children up for more extracurricular activities before or after school	21	9	12	33	46	22	24	-	*
Sign my child/children up for more school services	18	7	10	30	51	26	25	-	1

N=838

Q17. Has needing to take your child/children to and from school or activities caused you to experience any of the following, or not?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025	Yes, I have experienced this	No, I have not experienced this	DK	SKP/ REF
Missing work	35	64	-	2
Losing a job	11	87	-	2
Being prevented from seeking or taking on work opportunities	28	70	-	2
Being prevented from seeking or taking on personal opportunities	31	68	-	1

N=838

Q18. If you were able to send your child/children to any school in your area, how important would each of the following factors be in deciding which school to choose?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025- 07/11/2025	Extremely/ very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very/not at all important NET	Not very important	Not at all important	DK	SKP/ REF
Classroom size or student-teacher ratio	68	31	37	26	6	3	3	-	*
School social environment	65	30	35	26	8	5	3	-	*
Transportation to and from school	51	20	31	28	21	14	7	-	*
Availability of extracurricular activities	44	17	27	35	20	14	6	-	1
Academic performance	76	44	32	18	6	4	2	-	*

N=838

Q19. How much responsibility should each of the following have to fund reliable school transportation for students with individual needs, such as students with special needs or who are experiencing homelessness?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025- 07/11/2025	A great deal/a moderate amount NET	A great deal	A moderate amount	Only a little/none at all NET	Only a little	None at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Individual schools	62	24	39	37	24	12	-	1
School districts	78	45	33	21	16	5	-	1
State government	80	45	34	19	13	6	-	1
Federal government	70	40	30	29	18	11	-	1

N=838

Q20. Would each of the following make getting to school easier, more difficult, or neither easier nor more difficult for you and your family?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025- 07/11/2025	Much/ somewhat easier NET	Much easier	Somewhat easier	Neither easier nor more difficult	Much/ somewhat more difficult NET	Somewhat more difficult	Much more difficult	DK	SKP/ REF
Changes to the school schedule, such as earlier or later start times	36	13	23	51	12	9	3	-	1
Offering more school bus routes	42	17	24	52	5	4	1	-	2
Offering school-arranged supplemental transportation services in cars or vans	40	14	26	53	5	3	2	-	2
Improving safe pedestrian and bike infrastructure near school	40	18	22	53	5	4	2	-	2
Centralized pick-up and drop-off locations for school buses	33	11	22	53	13	8	5	-	2

N=838

D1. What type of school does your child/do your children attend? Please select all that apply.

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Traditional public school	77
Charter or magnet school	12
Private or religious school	12
Some other type of school	1
Homeschool/remote learning (VOL)	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N =

838

If more than one child in Q2

D2. Thinking about the most recent school year, did your children...

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Attend the same school	57
Attend different schools	42
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N =	452

D3. How would you describe the community your school is in?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Urban	18
Suburban	49
Small town	20
Rural	11
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2
N =	838

D4. Which statement best describes your current employment status?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Working remotely – as a paid employee	13
Working a hybrid schedule of remote and in-person – as a paid employee	12
Working in person – as a paid employee	47
Working – self employed	7
Not working – stay at home parent	9
Not working – on temporary layoff from a job	1
Not working – looking for work	3
Not working – retired	2
Not working – disabled	3
Not working – other	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N =	838

If married

D5. Which statement best describes your spouse or partner's current employment status?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Working remotely-as a paid employee	10
Working a hybrid schedule of remote and in-person – as a paid employee	10
Working in person – as a paid employee	53
Working – self employed	9
Not working – stay at home parent	10
Not working – for any other reason	6
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N =

568

D6. How would you describe the community you live in now?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Urban	17
Suburban	51
Small town	17
Rural	14
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N =

838

AGE

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
18-29	5
30-44	57
45-59	34
60+	3

N =

838

GENDER

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Male	45
Female	55
<i>N</i> =	838

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
White, non-Hispanic	54
Black or African American	11
Hispanic	24
Asian-Pacific Islander	7
Other	4
<i>N</i> =	838

MARITAL STATUS. What is your current relationship status? Are you...

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Married	71
Divorced	7
Separated	4
Widowed	1
Never married	17
<i>N</i> =	838

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Less than a high school diploma	4
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college/associates degree	24
Bachelor's degree	25
Post grad study/professional degree	18
<i>N</i> =	838

CENSUS REGION

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Northeast NET	17
New England	4
Mid-Atlantic	12
Midwest NET	21
East North Central	14
West North Central	6
South NET	39
South Atlantic	20
East South Central	6
West South Central	13
West NET	23
Mountain	8
Pacific	16

N =

838

HOME OWNERSHIP

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025- 07/11/2025
Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household	71
Rented for cash	27
Occupied without payment of cash rent	1

N =

838

INCOME

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/11/2025
Under \$10,000	3
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	5
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	8
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	8
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	5
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	18
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	21
\$150,000 or more	18
<i>N</i> =	838

STUDY METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research in partnership with HopSkipDrive. The study was funded by HopSkipDrive. Staff from NORC at the University of Chicago, The Associated Press, and HopSkipDrive collaborated on all aspects of this study.

Parent Survey

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Panel®, which is NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between June 30 through July 11, 2025, with adults aged 18 and over with school-aged children representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members with school-aged children (children age 5-17) were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak and then screened for eligibility, and 838 completed the survey via the web. Panel members were invited by email or text message. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive (\$3) for completing the survey.

The final stage completion rate is 23.8 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 26.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 77.8 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 4.8 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.6 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 27 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them, for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample, or for straight-lining all grid questions asked of them. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design.

Poststratification variables included age, sex, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2025 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over with school-aged children.

Complete questions and results are available at: apnorc.org.

Additional information on the AmeriSpeak Panel methodology is available at: <https://amerispeak.norc.org/about-amerispeak/Pages/Panel-Design.aspx>.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

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- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. www.norc.org

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. Learn more at www.apnorc.org.

About HopSkipDrive

HopSkipDrive is a technology company that solves complex transportation challenges where there is a heightened need for safety, access, and care. HopSkipDrive is modernizing the \$30 billion school transportation industry through two core solutions: a care-centered transportation marketplace and industry-leading transportation intelligence platform, RouteWise AI™. HopSkipDrive's marketplace supplements school buses and existing transportation options by connecting kids to highly vetted caregivers on wheels, such as grandparents, babysitters, and nurses in local communities. RouteWise AI helps schools and districts address critical challenges, including budget cuts, bus driver shortages, and reaching climate goals. HopSkipDrive has supported over 13,500 schools across 17 states, with nearly 1,300 school districts, government agencies, and nonprofit partners. More than 5 million rides over 95 million miles have been completed through HopSkipDrive since the company was founded in 2014 by three working mothers. Learn more at www.hopskipdrive.com.

2025 AP-NORC/HopSkipDrive School Transportation Administrator Survey

**Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
In partnership with HopSkipDrive**

*Interviews: 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
510 school administrators*

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

SCREEN1. Which of the following best describes where you work?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Public school district	54
Traditional public elementary or middle school	13
Traditional public high school	7
Charter or magnet elementary or middle school	3
Charter or magnet high school	2
Charter or magnet K-12 school	3
Private elementary or middle school	6
Private high school	2
Private K-12 school	5
Some other type of school or school district	5
I do not work for a school or school district	-

N =

510

SCREEN3. In your job, how much responsibility do you have for student transportation options, policies and procedures for your school district/school?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
A great deal	31
A moderate amount	32
Only a little	37
None at all	-
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N =

510

Q1. In the most recent school year, has your school district/school's budget increased, decreased, or stayed about the same for each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025- 07/25/2025	Increased NET	Increased a lot	Increased a little	Stayed about the same	Decreased NET	Decreased a little	Decreased a lot	DK	SKP/ REF
Transportation services	33	10	24	45	21	14	6	-	1
Student services, such as counseling or extracurriculars	37	10	27	40	20	15	5	-	2
Teacher salaries	54	5	48	35	9	7	2	-	3
Administrative and support staff services	36	7	29	40	22	18	5	-	2

N=510

Q2. If your school district/school had to reduce costs in its next budget, how likely do you think it is that spending in each of the following areas would be eliminated or reduced?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025	Extremely/ very likely NET	Extremely likely	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too/not at all likely NET	Not too likely	Not at all likely	DK	SKP/ REF
Transportation services	23	7	16	37	38	28	10	-	1
Student services, such as counseling or extracurriculars	30	6	24	35	32	24	9	-	3
Teacher salaries	19	6	13	24	55	39	16	-	3
Administrative and support staff services	27	6	21	38	33	24	9	-	2

N=510

Q3. How do children in your school district/school typically get to and from school? If students commute using multiple different methods, please select all that apply.

[RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Parent, guardian or another family member drives them	86
Carpool with multiple families	42
School bus	79
School-arranged supplemental transportation services in cars or vans	31
Walk or ride a bike	64
Public transportation	25
A hired car like a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	16
Students drive themselves	37
Other	*
Residential campus (VOL)	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N =

510

Q4. Does your school district/school currently offer each of the following transportation services, or not?

[GRID ITEMS B-D RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025	Yes	No	Not sure	SKP/REF
School-arranged transportation to school	82	16	2	-
School-arranged transportation to field trips	95	4	*	*
School-arranged transportation to extracurricular activities, such as school sporting events	76	21	3	*
Individualized student transportation, such as for students with special needs or who are experiencing homelessness	74	19	7	*

N=510

Q5. Does your school district/school currently offer each of the following transportation methods, or not?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025	Yes	No	Not sure	SKP/REF
School-arranged supplemental school transportation services in cars or vans	53	38	8	1
School buses	84	14	2	1
Public transportation vouchers or reimbursement	28	57	13	2
Mileage or gas reimbursement for parents	22	68	8	2

N=510

Q6. How important do you think it is for school-provided transportation to do each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025- 07/25/2025	Extremely/ very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/not at all important NET	Not too important	Not important at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Use video recording or monitoring devices on vehicles transporting students	76	48	28	18	6	5	1	-	1
Provide families with GPS tracking on vehicles transporting students	48	26	23	26	25	18	6	-	1
Provide annual reporting of safety incidents	82	44	38	15	3	3	*	-	*
Regularly update technology and equipment	80	40	40	17	2	2	*	-	1
Confirm drivers have been thoroughly vetted	92	72	19	6	2	2	*	-	*

N=510

Q7. Which of the following students qualify for free, school-provided transportation in your school district/school? Please select all that apply.

[RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Students who live far from school	22
Students who are experiencing homelessness	29
Students with disabilities	33
Students in foster care	20
Students who are chronically absent	5
Students with low incomes	22
All students qualify for free, school-provided transportation	45
None of the above	9
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N =

510

Q8. In the last 5 years, has the number of students who qualify for free, school-provided transportation in your school district/school increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Increased NET	44
Increased a lot	16
Increased a little	28
Stayed about the same	46
Decreased NET	8
Decreased a little	7
Decreased a lot	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N =

510

Q9. In the next 5 years, do you expect the number of students who qualify for free, school-provided transportation in your school district/school to increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Increase NET	45
Increase a lot	17
Increase a little	28
Stay about the same	43
Decrease NET	8
Decrease a little	6
Decrease a lot	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	4

N =

510

Q10. In the most recent school year, has your school district/school reduced transportation services?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Yes	18
No	71
Not sure	11
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N =

510

If yes to Q10

Q10A. What are the main reasons your school district/school reduced transportation services? Please select all that apply.³

[RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Not enough bus drivers for existing routes	
Fewer students receiving transportation services	
Rising transportation expenses	
Reduction in transportation budget	
Reductions in overall budget	
Other	
None of the above	
DON'T KNOW	
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	

N =

92

Q11. How much of a problem is each of the following in your school district/school?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025	Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	DK	SKP/ REF
School bus services being eliminated or reduced	25	26	48	-	2
Traffic congestion around the school during pick up and drop off times	41	40	19	-	*
School bus driver shortages	46	36	18	-	*
Meeting environmental or sustainability requirements or regulations for transportation services	11	37	51	-	1
Crime or public safety issues near school	14	37	49	-	1
Lack of safe pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure near school	23	38	37	-	1
Budget cuts to school transportation	27	38	34	-	1

N=510

³ Sample sizes are below n=100, too small to analyze

Q12. In the most recent school year, how much of an impact did each of the following have on your school district's/school's transportation operations?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025	Major impact	Minor impact	No impact	DK	SKP/ REF
School bus driver shortages	43	37	20	-	*
Budget shortages	32	41	26	-	*

N=510

Q13. How concerned are you about your school district's/school's ability to provide reliable rides to and from schools for the following groups?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025- 07/25/2025	Extremely/ very concerned NET	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very/not at all concerned NET	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	DK	SKP/ REF
Students with special needs	32	15	17	23	44	24	20	-	*
Students who are experiencing homelessness	31	13	18	24	45	25	20	-	*
Students in foster care	27	11	15	25	48	25	22	-	1
Students displaced by a natural disaster	25	11	14	21	54	29	25	-	*

N=510

Q14. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following policies?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025	Strongly/ somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly/ somewhat oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
Allowing school districts to use school-arranged supplemental school transportation services in cars or vans when traditional school buses cannot fill the need	65	31	35	24	10	5	4	-	1
Replace old school buses with low-emission hybrid or electric buses	54	24	30	30	15	8	7	-	1
Improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in areas near schools	70	40	29	24	5	3	3	-	1
Organizing centralized pick-up and drop-off locations for students using school buses	73	40	33	21	6	4	2	-	*

N=510

Q15. How much of a problem was each of the following in your school district/school during the most recent school year?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025	Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	DK	SKP/ REF
Chronic absenteeism	36	40	23	-	2
Chronic tardiness	37	40	21	-	1
Academic performance challenges	28	44	25	-	3
Inequity and disparities	17	40	41	-	2
Student safety concerns	20	45	34	-	2
Operational challenges	19	49	30	-	1
School closures	8	24	66	-	2

N=510

If corresponding issues were a problem in Q15

Q16. How much of an impact did access to transportation have on each of the following issues experienced by your school district/school?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025	Major impact	Minor impact	No impact	DK	SKP/ REF
Chronic absenteeism (N=384)	28	46	25	-	1
Chronic tardiness (N=394)	28	48	24	-	1
Academic performance challenges (N=367)	25	43	32	-	*
Inequity and disparities (N=289)	22	55	22	-	-
Student safety concerns (N=329)	22	53	24	-	1
Operational challenges (N=348)	20	53	26	-	-
School closures (N=165)	25	48	25	-	1

Q17. How often do staff in your school district/school take time away from core job duties to help with school transportation, such as managing school car lines at drop-off and pick-up or driving school buses or vans?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Never	16
A few times a year	20
Monthly	9
Weekly	13
Multiple times a week	40
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N =

510

If school bus driver shortages were a problem in Q11C

Q18. What are the main reasons for the school bus driver shortage in your school district/school?
Select all that apply.

[RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Issues recruiting new bus drivers	57
Driver retirement	28
Driver pay	63
Losing drivers to private industry	24
Student behavior	44
Safety concerns	19
Budget cuts	35
Other	3
Problems getting licensing (VOL)	1
No busses (VOL)	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2

N =

415

If school bus driver shortages were a problem in Q11C

Q19. In what ways has your school district/school tried to address bus driver shortages? Select all that apply.

[RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Reduced services by cutting or shortening bus routes	26
Reduced services by canceling bus service for general education students	13
Offered pay raises or increased benefits for bus drivers	55
Expanded walk boundaries	14
Changed school start or end times each day	20
Required opting into bus service for students	12
Other	1
Switched contractor/vendor (VOL)	1
Increased recruiting (VOL)	1
None of the above	17
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	3

N =

415

If school district employee

D1A. Approximately how many students are enrolled in your school district?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Under 500	3
500 – 1,000	10
1,000 – 9,999	39
10,000 – 49,999	35
50,000 – 100,000	9
More than 100,000	5
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N =

274

If school employee

D1B. Approximately how many students are enrolled in your school?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Under 200	15
200 – 499	31
500 – 999	30
1,000 – 3,000	20
More than 3,000	4
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N =

236

D2. What income group would you say the majority of families in your school district/school belong to?

[RESPONSE OPTIONS]

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Lower income	36
Middle income	53
Higher income	11
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N =</i>	<i>510</i>

D3.

If school district employee

Do any schools in your district receive Title I Funding?

If school employee

Does your school receive Title I funding?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Yes	64
No	19
DON'T KNOW	18
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N =</i>	<i>510</i>

D4. How would you describe the community your school district/school is in?

	AP-NORC/HSD 06/30/2025-07/25/2025
Urban	31
Suburban	49
Small town	10
Rural	10
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N =</i>	<i>510</i>

STUDY METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research in partnership with HopSkipDrive. The study was funded by HopSkipDrive. Staff from NORC at the University of Chicago, The Associated Press, and HopSkipDrive collaborated on all aspects of this study.

School Administrator Survey

Interviews for this survey were conducted between June 30 through July 25, 2025, with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia who are employed by a school or school district with at least some responsibility for student transportation options, policies, and procedures at their job.

The sample was sourced from a non-probability list from a marketing database and from Dynata's non-probability panel. 510 school administrators completed the survey. Interviews were conducted in English and via the web only.

Sample lists provided by HopSkipDrive included all contacts from a marketing database across all 50 states, with titles that typically include transportation responsibilities. All valid contacts were invited by email and respondents were offered a small monetary incentive (\$10) for completing the survey.

Dynata provided 321 interviews with school administrators. For panel recruitment, Dynata uses invitations of all types including email invitations, phone alerts, banners, and messaging on panel community sites to include people with a diversity of motivations to take part in research.

Both samples screened respondents to confirm they are currently employed at a K12 school or district and that they have knowledge of school transportation. Because non-probability panels do not start with a frame where there is known probability of selection, standard measures of sampling error and response rates cannot be calculated.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 6 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them, for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample, or for straight-lining all grid questions asked of them.

The school administrator data and findings are unweighted.

Complete questions and results are available at: apnorc.org.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

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The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. Learn more at www.apnorc.org.

About HopSkipDrive

HopSkipDrive is a technology company that solves complex transportation challenges where there is a heightened need for safety, access, and care. HopSkipDrive is modernizing the \$30 billion school transportation industry through two core solutions: a care-centered transportation marketplace and industry-leading transportation intelligence platform, RouteWise AI™. HopSkipDrive's marketplace supplements school buses and existing transportation options by connecting kids to highly vetted caregivers on wheels, such as grandparents, babysitters, and nurses in local communities. RouteWise AI helps schools and districts address critical challenges, including budget cuts, bus driver shortages, and reaching climate goals. HopSkipDrive has supported over 13,500 schools across 17 states, with nearly 1,300 school districts, government agencies, and nonprofit partners. More than 5 million rides over 95 million miles have been completed through HopSkipDrive since the company was founded in 2014 by three working mothers. Learn more at www.hopskipdrive.com.