



# Indianapolis Local Education Alliance

September 24, 2025

# Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Transportation Panel
  - Andrew Strobe, *IPS*
  - Alicia Hervey, *The Path School*
  - Tommy Reddicks - *Paramount Schools of Excellence*
  - Ryan Gail - *Victory College Prep*
- ILEA Q&A
- Public Comment
- Closing and Next Steps

# **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

# Transportation Panel

**IPS**



# Transportation Overview

September 24, 2025

- Current Overview
- Special Populations
- Innovation Partnerships
- Key Takeaways

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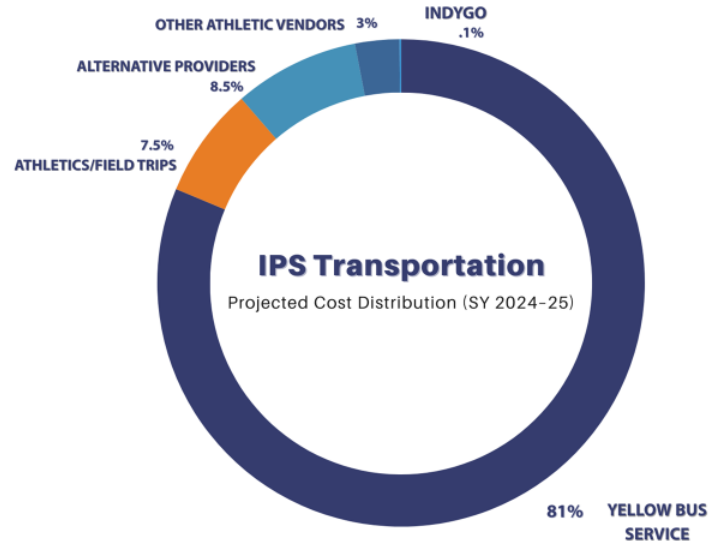
## Current Landscape



## Projected Cost Distribution (SY 2024–25)

## Projected Cost Distribution (SY 2024–25)

- 81% Yellow Bus Service (First Student)
- 7.5% Athletics/Field Trips (First Student)
- 8.5% Alternative Transportation Providers
- 3% Other Athletic Vendors
- 0.1% IndyGo Student Passes



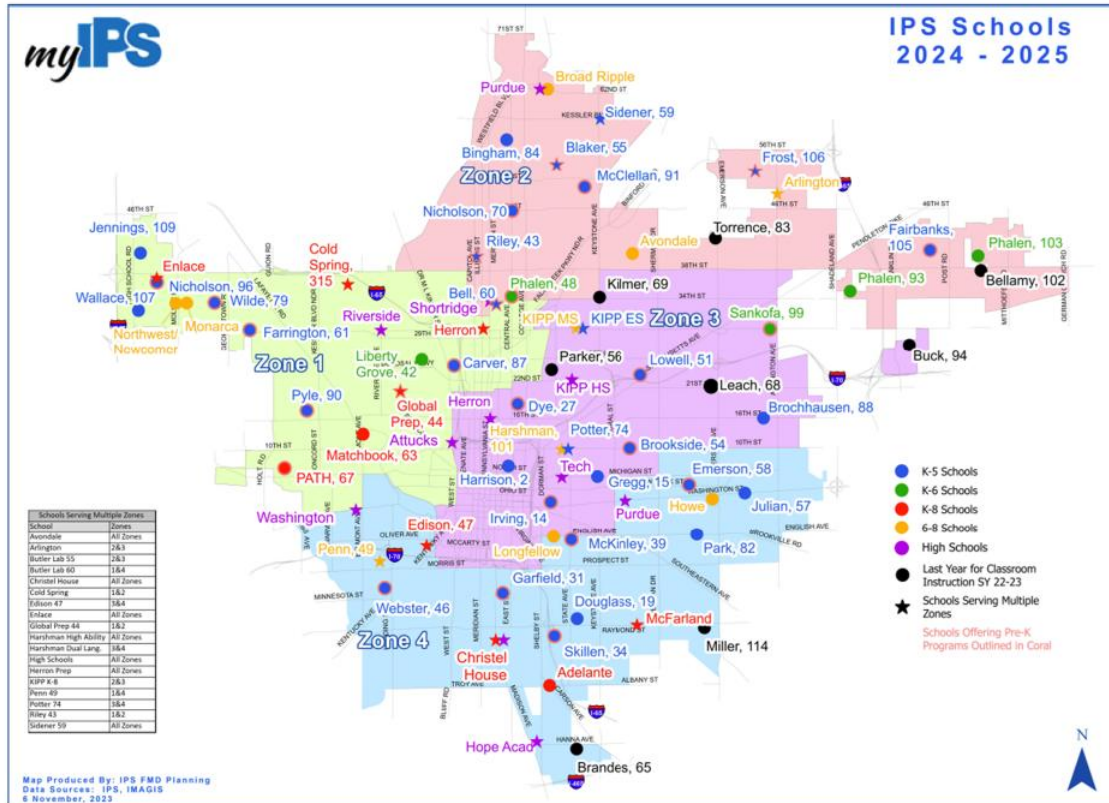
Breakdown of IPS transportation costs across student bus service, athletics, alternative providers, and public transit access. **Yellow bus** service is projected to **increase by 4% in SY 2025–26**.

Metric	Amount
Cost/Student (24-25)	\$2,300
Est. Cost/Student (25-26)	\$2,500
Yellow Bus (24-25)	\$40M
Athletics/Field Trips (24-25)	\$3.7M
Alt. Transport (24-25)	\$4.2M
Other Vendors - Athletics	\$1.5M
IndyGo Passes	\$66.6K

- **School Bus Service:** Eligibility is tied to a student's home address and assigned enrollment zone.
- **Walk Zones:** The distance to a school determines a student's eligibility for bus service and varies by grade level:
  - K–5: **1 mile or less**
  - 6–8: **1.25 miles or less**
  - 9–12: **1.5 miles or less**
- **IndyGo Partnership:** High school students can use public transit if the journey is under 50 minutes, requires no transfers, and includes less than 1 mile radius of walking distance.
- **Specialized Transportation:** Provided for students with IEPs or 504 plans that specify transportation as a related service.

Category	SY 2024–25 (Current)	SY 2025–26 (Projected)
IPS Students on Yellow Buses	15,500	14,000
Innovation Students on Yellow Buses	4,500	4,300
Students on IndyGo	900	900
Students in Walk Zones	2,250	2,100







### Special Education (SPED) Supports

Transportation is directly linked to our special education services as a result many students require specialized transportation under federal law.

#### The Scale and Cost of Services

- Nearly **1 in 6** IPS students (~4,400 students) receive special education services.
- The average cost per student for high-needs programs ranges from **\$24,000** to **\$52,000**.
- State special education funding (APC) averages only **\$8,000–\$20,000**, leaving IPS to cover the difference of **\$20,000–\$40,000** per high-need student.
- While most of the special education budget is used in the classroom, transportation services also incur significant costs.
  - These include:
    - i. Additional staff (bus monitors).
    - ii. Specialized equipment (harnesses, wheelchair lifts).
    - iii. Accommodations for routing and bus stops (door-to-door service in IEPs).

In addition to our other transportation services, we are legally required to provide transportation for students who are experiencing homelessness under the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**.

For the 2024-25 school year, IPS served **879** students under this provision, ensuring they have access to education regardless of their living situation.







First School Year in Innovation	Grades Served	School name
15.16	6-8	KIPP Indy College Prep Middle
15.16	K-5	KIPP Indy Unite Elementary
15.16	K-6	Phalen at Francis Scott Key 103
16.17	K-8	Cold Spring School
16.17	PK-8	Global Preparatory Academy
16.17	K-6	PLA at George H Fisher School 93
17.18	K-8	Edison School of the Arts 47
17.18	K-5	Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School 15
18.19	K-8	Matchbook Learning
19.20	9-12	KIPP Indy Legacy High
20.21	K-8	Adelante Schools at Emma Donnan
20.21	PK-6	PLA at Louis B Russell 48
20.21	PK-6	Sankofa School of Success 99
20.21	PK-8	The PATH School at Stephen Foster School 67
22.23	K-6	Liberty Grove Schools
22.23	6-8	Monarca Academy
23.24	PK-5	Washington Irving Neighborhood School 14

Since 2015, IPS has expanded its Innovation Network Schools to 30, with **17 of them including transportation services.**





A transportation system must provide the best possible service given competing priorities. There are seven factors to consider and they are often in tension with each other.

1. **Safety:** Ensuring student well-being through student management, bus monitoring, and mechanical inspections. This also includes tracking students and preventing crime.
2. **Compliance:** Adhering to vehicular regulations and legal requirements, such as those for special education (SpEd) and homeless services.
3. **Optimization:** Maximizing efficiency by adjusting the number of tiers, pairing routes, and managing route distances and ridership.
4. **Logistics:** Overcoming real-world challenges like staffing shortages, geographical barriers, and families moving frequently.
5. **Efficiency:** Reducing ride times and ensuring timely pick-ups and drop-offs, often coordinated with school bell times.
6. **Rate:** Managing costs, including fuel consumption, vehicle repair, staff salaries, and insurance.
7. **Responsiveness:** Addressing parent concerns, maintaining communication, and adapting to factors like school choice.

## Key Takeaways

**Transportation is a major equity lever:** IPS provides access to education through various transportation models, but the associated costs remain a significant challenge.

- **IPS provides significant in-kind contributions to Innovation schools.** These include transportation and facilities support, which represent tens of millions of dollars in annual costs to the district.
- **Future cost increases are likely:** With projected cost growth and ongoing underfunding, IPS will continue to face financial pressures in the coming years that impact level of service for families.



# **The Path School**

# Transportation

Alicia Hervey

Wednesday, September 24, 2025



# Demographics

<b>Black</b>	205	30%
<b>Asian</b>	1	0%
<b>Hispanic</b>	402	59%
<b>White</b>	47	7%
<b>Multiracial</b>	22	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>677</b>	



# Diverse Learners



**Multilingual Learners**

**363**

**54%**

**Exceptional Learners**

**78**

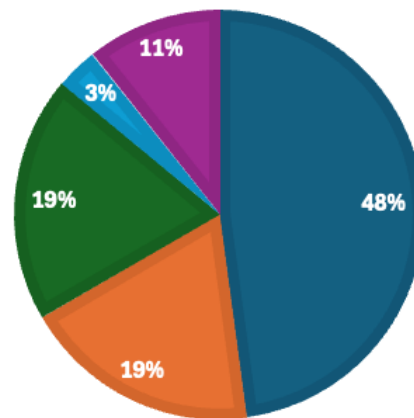
**12%**

# Transportation

<b>Bus</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Car riders</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Walkers</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Special Transportation (MV)</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>After School Program</b>	<b>75</b>

THE PATH SCHOOL'S TRANSPORTATION

■ Bus ■ Car riders ■ Walkers ■ Special Transportation ■ After School Program



# Annual Transportation Costs

	IPS Transportation	IPS (Summer Learning)	Alternative Vendor
2020 - 2021	\$0		\$7,568.00
2021 - 2022	\$0		\$20,876.00
2022 - 2023	\$0	\$39,940.26	\$33,239.80
2023 - 2024	\$0	\$10,751.04	\$22,825.50
2024 - 2025	\$0	\$40,315.95	\$42,480.30
2025 - 2026	~\$250,000		~\$8,080.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>~\$250,000</b>	<b>\$91,007.25</b>	<b>\$135,069.00</b>

# **Paramount Schools of Excellence**



PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS OF  
EXCELLENCE

# ***TRANSPORTATION OVERVIEW***



Website:  
[paramountindy.org](http://paramountindy.org)







**PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS OF  
EXCELLENCE**

Paramount Brookside: 837  
Paramount Cottage Home: 398  
Paramount Englewood: 214  
Paramount Online Academy: 180  
Paramount Lafayette: 232  
Paramount South Bend: 520  
Girls IN STEM Academy: 82  
Andrew J Brown Academy: 479

# ***K-8 BY THE NUMBERS***

**2150 Students K-8  
6 Indianapolis Campuses**

**750 Students K-8  
Lafayette & South Bend**

**BUSSING OFFERED FOR 2 INDY SCHOOLS**

**ANDREW J BROWN ACADEMY: 479 STUDENTS**

**GIRLS IN STEM ACADEMY: 82 STUDENTS**





PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS OF  
EXCELLENCE

## ***\*CURRENT COSTS***

***AVG: \$925/STUDENT RIDER***

PSOE operates buses for two schools in Indy, for Andrew J Brown Academy and for Girls IN STEM Academy - both K-8 schools

Cost per bus per day/per year

- \$** \$582.79/day at AJB: \$636,406.68/year for 6 buses
- \$** \$582.79/day at GISA: \$106,067.78/year for 1.5 buses
- \$** \$475/day in South Bend: \$259,350.00/year for 3 buses

*\*Does not include staffing costs*







PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS OF  
EXCELLENCE

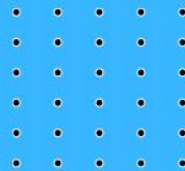
# ***OTHER CAMPUSES***

**PSOE does not utilize busing at the following campuses:**

- Paramount Brookside: 837 Students
- Paramount Cottage Home: 398 Students
- Paramount Englewood: 214 Students
- Paramount Lafayette: 232 Students
- Paramount Online Academy: N/A



Website:  
[paramountindy.org](http://paramountindy.org)





PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS OF  
EXCELLENCE

# ***ADD BUSING?***

PSOE “could” utilize busing at the following campuses:

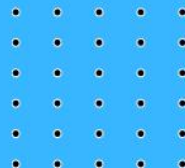
- Paramount Cottage Home: 398 Students
- Paramount Englewood: 214 Students

PSOE “could” utilize busing at the following campuses with infrastructure changes:

- Paramount Brookside: 837 Students

Website:

[paramountindy.org](http://paramountindy.org)





**PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS OF  
EXCELLENCE**



**LOCATION  
LOGISTICS**



**ALL OR NONE  
CONUNDRUM**



**COST: ANNUAL RATES  
AND STAFFING RATES**



**DEPENDABILITY &  
SAFETY**

# ***CHALLENGES***

1) Not all PSOE sites are conducive to buses. Paramount Brookside and Paramount Cottage Home have logistical challenges for allowing buses in the lot.

2) If you offer one bus, all other parents want to be bused as well. Scaled efforts are then challenging.

3) Costs continue to prohibit busing for the PSOE network.

4) Problems with dependability/safety continue to compound frustration at existing busing campuses



# **Victory College Prep**



# **Victory College Prep**

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**A MODEL  
ROUTED  
FOR EQUITY**



## ABOUT OUR VCP NETWORK



**Victory College Prep empowers K-12 students** with the academic and social-emotional skills **to thrive in college or a career.**

- 20-year old, independent, mayor's-office charter network
- three-school two-campus model in Southeast Indianapolis
- 1,300+ students from historically marginalized communities
  - 90% economically disadvantaged
  - 90% identify as Black or Latino
- public and tuition free for all Indianapolis families



## OUR PHILOSOPHY ON TRANSPORTATION

**We believe transportation is the #1 barrier to equitable access** to high-quality education.

**We commit \$1.7M\* annually to remove that barrier** by funding the second largest transportation model in the city after IPS.

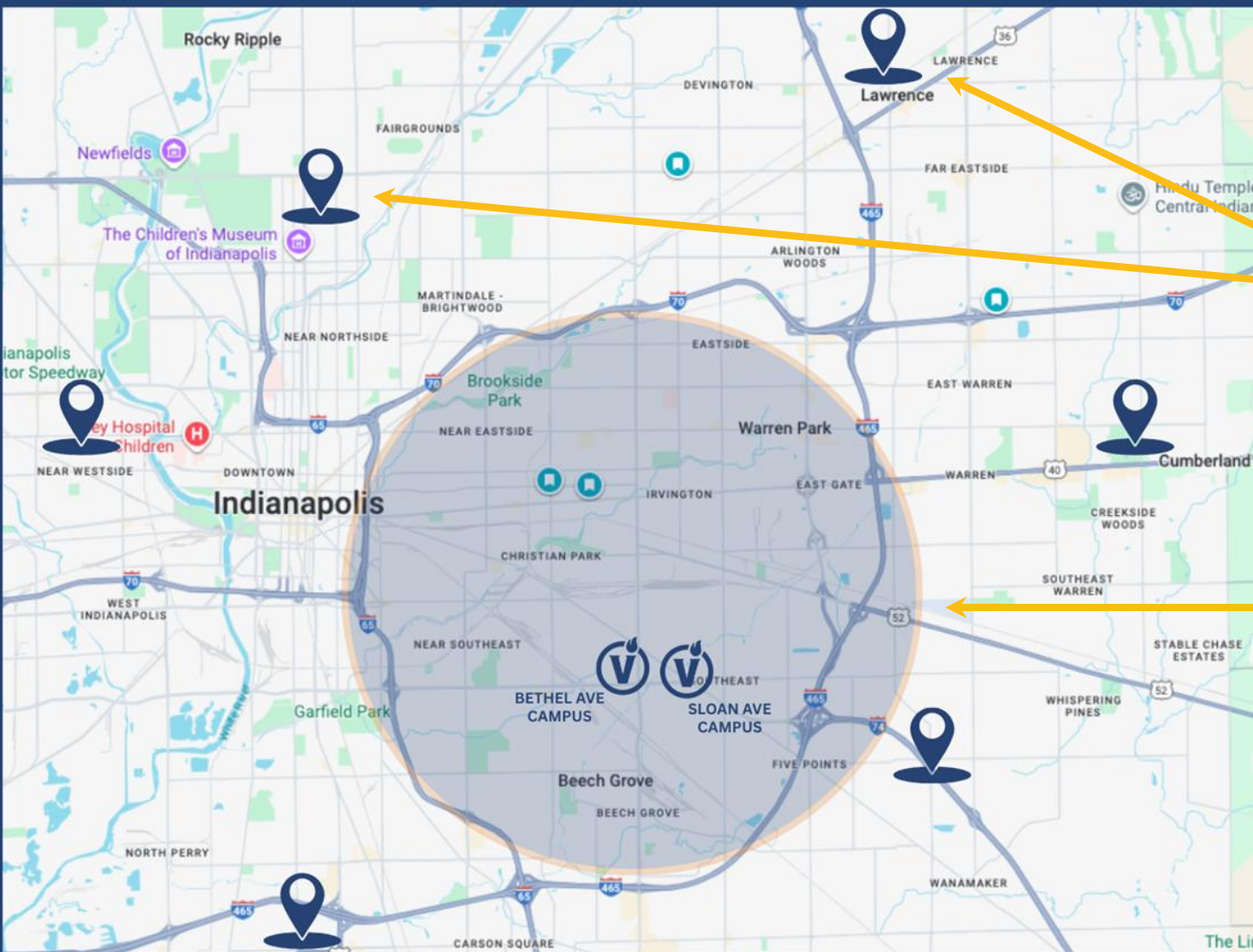
- most services provided by outside vendor (Miller)
- 1,000 routed students
- 24 distinct routes
- 400 individual route stops

*\*represents 10% of annual operating budget*



**20% of routes**  
extend out to 15  
miles from our  
campuses

**80% of routes**  
travel Southeast  
quad of I-465 loop



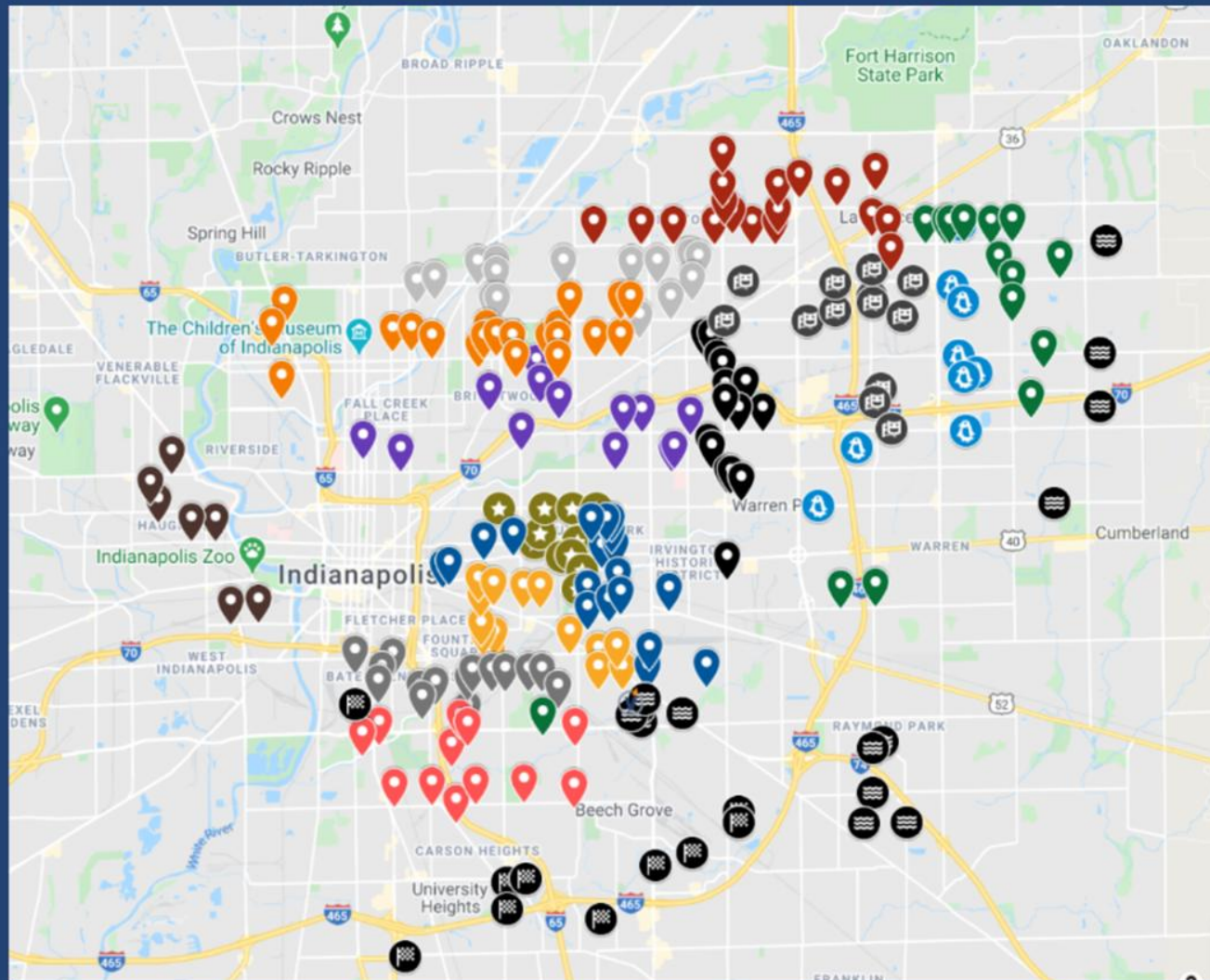




**Satellite stops**  
support 92% of  
routed students

**Curb stops**  
support students  
with special  
circumstances

Consistency  
benefits student  
retention



**We supplement school day transportation with extended service**  
that supports beyond the classroom:

- enrichment experiences
  - 5 routes for internship experiences
  - 30+ field trip destinations
  - 10+ college campus visits
- athletics
  - 10 sports teams and more than 50 road competitions
- after-school programming
  - 6 routes twice weekly serve tutoring and club participants

## STRENGTHS

- **Satellite stops** create maximum reach
- **Partners at route stops** create reliable pipelines
- **K-12 shared bussing** maximizes efficiency/cost
- **Local Vendor Management** increases adaptability

## OPPORTUNITIES

- **Improved bus tracking** and communication
- **Behavior supports** and restorative discipline implementation
- **Vendor capacity** limits effectiveness
- **Staffing resources required** to manage the system





# **Victory College Prep**

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**A MODEL  
ROUTED  
FOR EQUITY**

[www.victorycollegeprep.org](http://www.victorycollegeprep.org)

# ILEA Q&A

# Public Comment Procedure

For everyone to have a fair chance to speak and be heard, please observe the following rules:

**First**, each speaker will be limited to **1** minute. When the timer sounds, please conclude your statement.

**Second**, please ensure comments reasonably relate to the work of the ILEA and address the alliance as a whole. Tonight, comments should focus on facilities.

**Finally**, please avoid repeating what a prior speaker has said so that we may hear from as many people as possible.

# Public Comment

# Tentative ILEA Roadmap

- **July/August:** Review current landscape, identify priority data around academics, transportation, facilities, etc.
- **September/October:** Issues deep dive to identify potential challenges and consider draft recommendations
- **November/December:** Continued analysis and refinement of recommendations
- **December:** ILEA adopts final recommendations. Plan submitted to state and local leaders by 12/31.



# Closing

Next steps include:

- Data collection and analysis ongoing

Next Meeting:

- 6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025.
- Details and upcoming meeting schedule available at <https://www.indy.gov/activity/indianapolis-local-education-alliance>
- Contact [ILEA@Indy.gov](mailto:ILEA@Indy.gov) or [IPSEExternalAffairs@myips.org](mailto:IPSEExternalAffairs@myips.org) with questions or comments.