

## Citywide Council for District 75

### Committee on Busing & Safety

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### Committee on Busing & Safety Report:

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

City Council has voted today Wednesday, 1/9/19 of all 8 Bills proposed from September 2018 to improve the city's \$1.2 Billion yellow school bus system after the horrifying student busing crisis of 2018.

These laws are created in response to thousands of complaints made by NYC parents, advocates, and community leaders. Problems that continue to be unresolved from the start of September: students face delays of more than 4 hrs, poor communication on the whereabouts of students, and city investigating employees who have committed serious crimes.

-GPS tracking systems on school buses will be in effect for all buses by School Year 2019. Parents will be equipped to use an app to locate their child on their route. The DOE will be able to better track the timeline and whereabouts of every school bus location.

-September 2019, every school bus driver will be required to carry two way radio system to communicate with dispatcher and parents.

-City Council has mandated the city to post public reports on the quality of school bus service. Bus drivers will be required to conduct multiple dry runs thru 12 months of the year. Dry runs, notifications of student bus routes to parents, and more will be required before the start of the school year.

During the October Public Hearing, City Council Member Treyger and his committee members have taken themselves to push these laws forward after they have heard the outrageous testimonies given and unacceptable complaint calls estimating 130,000, just the month of September only, an increase of 20,000 from last school year. The goal of these legislative laws are to give relief to the thousands of NYC parents who've been dealing with the problems way too long.

City Council have and will continue to hold the city accountable and hold them transparent to the public on student busing transporting 150,000 citywide students.

During the November storm, 700 bus routes stranding thousands of students through the whole night up to 4pm, Chancellor Carranza had implemented all school buses to be equipped with emergency kits that will put some relief to the students and staffers on the bus thru a storm. The implementation of GPS tracking will be the greatest benefit to the parents on the whereabouts of their child during unexpected weather storms. Having an app for parents will be the biggest impact, a problem that will hopefully resolve the city's long struggle.

NYC Council will have proper oversight and enforcement in improving the busing system. As steps are taken, city council will continue to follow up with public feedback.

Chancellor Carranza has guaranteed to also improve communication with parents. Federal Bureaus of Investigation continue to audit DOI & DOE, as DOE reach a new contract with bus companies. Parents, advocates, and leaders hope these new contracts will insure better and safer transportation for all NYC students.

**“Delayed/no-show school bus service is no way for students & families to begin a school year,”**

-D. Brooklyn Councilmember Mark Treyger, Chair of Committee on Education