

Equitable Access to Transportation Advisory Council Survey Reveals Critical Gaps in Youth Transportation Access

The Equitable Access to Transportation Survey examines school transportation barriers for children across different communities throughout the country. Survey respondents were primarily professionals and advocates with more than ten years of experience in the child welfare, education, and transportation sectors, with long-standing insights into the impact these barriers can have in students' lives.

The survey results paint a clear picture: **there is an urgent need for improved school transportation services for children, particularly those in vulnerable and underserved communities. Limited funding and inflexible services create significant barriers to equitable transportation access for youth.**



Critical Resource Shortage Hampers Equitable Access

93% *pointed to lack of resources*

Respondents pointed to the lack of resources such as funding, centralized transportation routes, and flexible transportation services as key barriers to equitable access to schools in their local communities.

Equitable Solutions Needed

87% *stressed the importance of developing flexible transportation services*

Respondents stressed the importance of developing flexible transportation services that accommodate various school and extracurricular schedules.

Vulnerable Youth Left Behind by Inadequate Transportation Options

78% *agreed transportation options are inadequate expressed concerns about safety in student transportation*

Respondents indicated that transportation options are inadequate in their communities, with limited alternatives available, especially for vulnerable youth such as those in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or those with disabilities.

Limited Alternatives Leave Communities Stranded

59% *indicated alternative transportation options do not exist in their communities*

Safety Concerns Span from Neighborhoods to Bus Seats

82% *expressed concerns about safety in student transportation*

Worries extend beyond buses to public stops and neighborhoods, especially those with inadequate walking and biking infrastructure, reflecting collective worry over the conditions where students access safe and reliable transportation.

Ineffective Communication Undermines Transportation Reliability

60%

of respondents indicated that real-time updates about transportation options are not available.

55%

noted information about route closures, cancellations, and delays are not easily accessible.



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Transportation is a lifeline to opportunity in the United States, but not all students have the safe, equitable access they deserve. In recognition of this important issue, 10 highly qualified experts from various organizations devoted to transportation, child welfare, road safety, community planning, education, and technology have come together to form the first-ever Equitable Access to Transportation Advisory Council (EATAC).