

**Savannah Chatham County Public School System’s Bus Debacle  
A Moral and Ethical Failure of SCCPSS Administration and Our Community**

**SCCPSS at a Glance**

1) Huge increase in SCCPSS resources over the last 10 years:

- General – from 2013 to 2022:
  - Total spending has increased from \$300 million to \$466 million, a 56% increase, 33% adjusted for inflation.
  - The number of SCCPSS employees has increased 36% from 3,751 to 5,097

YET

- Total enrollment is DOWN from 36,476 to 36,326



- Sprawling, highly compensated SCCPSS administration:

	SCCPSS Superintendent	“Deputy Associate / Assistant Superintendents”*	“Transportation Directors”
# of Positions:	1	13	17
Salary:	\$322,814	\$155,000	\$60,000
% of National Average:	Top 1%	Top 6%	Top 35%

\* These employees are NOT school principals

2) Failure to provide basic busing service despite:

- Ample resources -
  - i. A multitude of highly paid administrators to address the issue
  - ii. An increase of \$22 million in the 2021/2022 school budget despite fewer students to serve this year.
- Ample time – The Administration has had at least one year to plan for bus service that is nothing new to deal with despite the Covid pandemic.

3) Does the sprawling, highly compensated administration even grasp the problem?

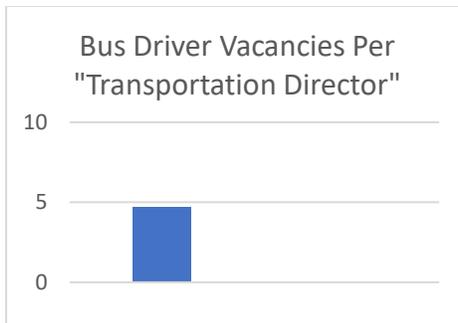
- According to SMN article dated July 26,  
*“The district has said it needs at least 75 more bus drivers”*

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- According to a report from WTOC July 27, a mere one day later,  
*“But instead, they are about 114 drivers short”*

Which is it? The size of the gap between 75 and 114 indicates the administration does not know.

- How many “Transportation Directors” does it take to fill the 75 (or 114 -?) bus driver positions? Given the current number of 16 directors, there is about one for every five vacancies.



**A Moral and Ethical Failure**

- The consequences of failing to attain a solid educational foundation are little short of dire, affecting almost every aspect of a child’s life. Some examples:

Less Than High School Diploma Compared to:		
	High School Graduate	Associates Degree
Earnings	20% Lower	33% Lower
Unemployment	46% Higher	100% Higher
Physical Health Problems	33% Higher	71% Higher

- Our SCCPSS students are among the most vulnerable and powerless in our community:
  - Low income and limited choices - More than 60% of SCCPSS students’ family incomes are at a level low enough to qualify for the free and reduced cost lunch program

- Fear of speaking out - According to the Savannah Morning News, at a recent SCCPSS "Forward to School Expo", *"Other parents Savannah Morning News spoke with didn't want to comment on the record, but also expressed apprehension about securing transportation."*

Given the foregoing circumstances of not providing basic bus service enabling thousands of our community's students of very limited resources to be transported to and from their schools is both a **moral and ethical failure of SCCPSS leadership**. The Community's inaction - not standing up for some of the Chatham County's most vulnerable and powerless and not demanding accountability from SCCPSS leadership - is dismaying.

Sources:

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