



ELIZABETH FORWARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Todd E. Keruskin
Superintendent

August 15, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Elizabeth Forward School District (EFSD) today filed a lawsuit with the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County against Pennsylvania Coach Lines (PA Coach) to enforce its contract rights.

On Friday, August 2, 2019, PA Coach Lines notified EFSD that it will not honor the contract approved by Elizabeth Forward Board of School Directors on October 17, 2018 and will not transport EFSD students. PA Coach has provided no legitimate explanation for its unilateral decision. This action by PA Coach, if left unchallenged, would result in 2,343 EFSD students being without District-provided transportation to and from classes at the start of the 2019-20 academic year.

Over the past two weeks, EFSD has tried unsuccessfully to resolve this matter amicably with PA Coach and avoid litigation. The result of PA Coach's action is that thousands of students, including several hundred special needs children, may not have adequate transportation to school which starts Thursday, August 22.

In this legal action, EFSD seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, requiring PA Coach to comply with its contractual obligations and transport students in accordance with the contract.

Given the topography and the large size of our school district, which is 42 square miles, bus transportation is essential to granting access to education for our students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. In addition, many EFSD students are transported to special education programs, parochial schools, and field trips throughout the year. We are taking every action, including this litigation, to ensure that school programs continue uninterrupted despite PA Coach's conduct.

To that end, EFSD and the Elizabeth Forward School Board are committed to keeping families informed. The district will be using its electronic communications system to notify every parent/guardian via phone, text, and email. In addition, the district will use its homepage to update the public on the situation. Finally, the district will utilize appropriate social media channels to keep the community informed.

Notification will be posted on the district's website www.efsd.net, it's [Facebook](#) page and my [Twitter](#) account. Since this situation is fluid, EFSD will update the community as the process unfolds.

We appreciate the excitement and the anxiousness that exists among parents and students before the school year begins, especially for our Kindergarten students. This unfortunate action taken by PA Coach Lines, which is well-funded by taxpayer dollars, is not fair for our community. We deserve better. We place the safety and security of all of our students first and foremost.

Sincerely,

Dr. Todd E. Keruskin
Superintendent of Schools