



FAQ: Metro's letter to Cincinnati Public Schools

Please see below for answers to some of the frequently asked questions following Metro's letter, sent Nov. 18, 2021, to CPS regarding the conclusion of its contract.

1. What does the letter say and why did Metro send it?

In Metro's Nov. 18 letter to CPS Interim Superintendent Tianay Amat, CEO Darryl Haley stated that Metro would not be exercising its option to extend its current contract with CPS past its current term, which ends on June 30, 2022. Metro will continue to uphold its contractual commitment through the current school year. Per that agreement, Metro is required to issue this notice at least six months prior to the contract's termination date or it automatically continues for up to two additional years.

Why did Metro issue this notice? Because federal law compels us to do so. As the district was made aware on numerous occasions, CPS' decision to solicit bids from the market for charter transportation service explicitly excludes Metro as a potential service provider beyond our current contract. This is due to [regulations prohibiting federally funded transit agencies from competing with private vendors](#).

If Metro were to bid on these services, it would jeopardize Metro's ability to receive federal funding, which is necessary to operate the transit system, purchase new buses, build new transit centers, upgrade technology and deliver on its levy promises of new and innovative services such as Bus Rapid Transit service. Ultimately, this would negatively impact the tens of thousands who depend on us each day to get to work, doctor appointments and to all of the other schools and colleges across our county.

2. How does this affect CPS students riding Metro?

For the current school year, Metro's notice to CPS has no impact. Metro will continue to honor our agreement with CPS and continue to provide students and families the best service possible amidst the labor challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has always been Metro's procedure to continuously adjust and refine all of our fixed bus routes, including those that serve CPS students. As a result of our staff's tireless efforts, CPS student ridership has nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels, with nearly 9,000 trips taken each school day.

3. What are CPS students' options after this school year?

Ultimately, that decision is up to CPS. However, Metro is eager to continue offering its service to students and families attending all school districts across Hamilton County, including CPS. That has not and will not change.

Thanks to the public's trust in implementing our Reinventing Metro plan, bus service is already rapidly accelerating with longer hours, more frequent trips and expanded reach across Hamilton County. This means better service for all riders, for all occasions, and we're proud that will continue to include CPS students.

4. Does the Hamilton County sales tax fund CPS student bus service?

The recently passed Hamilton County sales tax funding for transit does not fund service for CPS. The transit levy was passed to enable Metro to provide improved and more robust service across Hamilton County for the benefit of all residents who depend on and benefit from our service.

CPS has contracted with Metro for a number of years to provide passes and to support additional levels of service to aide in their efforts to transport CPS students who ride our buses each day. This funding source is provided directly from CPS independently of the sales tax revenue.