

The district can currently operate up to 40 mid-size buses for special education transportation, while contracting up to 35 mid-size and 20 wheelchair buses from Durham School Services (current vendor). The current capital budget allowed for no more than two to three buses being replaced annually, creating more than a 13 to 20 year replacement cycle for buses. This replacement cycle has forced the district to pull buses off the road due to safety concerns and thus require the district to use the contracted vendor for more services (at a higher cost than self-operated routes).

To accelerate the bus replacement cycle, the district has leased 10 school buses for five years beginning in FY18 at a total cost of \$123,584 annually. This will allow the district to maintain the existing routes that are operated but not recoup the four routes that have been given to Durham School Services.

Moving forward, the Administration is working with the City Manager for an increase in capital equipment funds that will allow for the replacement of buses on a 7-year basis. This increase in capital funds are expected to be included in the city's FY18 capital budget.