



STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF AMERICA®

October 28, 2022

To: All Gateway School District Families

**From: Paul Fichner, Vice President, Operations
STA of Pennsylvania, Inc. (STA)**

Regarding: Student Transportation

I would like to first acknowledge any challenges you may be experiencing as a result of the inconsistent student transportation being provided this school year and apologize for any inconveniences caused as a result. As all of you are quite aware, the entire school bus industry is experiencing a severe driver shortage, and unfortunately, we are not immune from it locally. STA has been providing student transportation services in Pennsylvania for over 25 years and has been a partner with Gateway since 2013; the last two years have been the most challenging we have ever experienced with regards to driver availability.

We want to assure all of you that we are doing everything possible and sparing no expense to recruit, hire, and train drivers to serve the Gateway community. We have been supplementing the local staff with Pennsylvania certified drivers from our other locations, but that has also been somewhat hindered due to the shortages they are experiencing as well. The full-time staff is also licensed/certified and have been driving when needed. Despite the “all hands-on deck” approach, there have been times where we can’t adequately service a route and it ends up running late. We are in daily communication with District personnel, to let them know what routes will be affected that morning or afternoon. Additionally, the Administration has been very cooperative with regards to helping modify times for extracurricular activities, so we can focus on getting your children to/from school.

Driving a school bus is not easy but can a very rewarding career for a person that wants to have a positive impact on the life of a child and play an important role in their education experience. It would be invaluable to all of us that if you know of anyone that may be interested in joining the STA team to serve the Gateway School District, please give them the link below. You are all part of a very close-knit community, and we would sincerely appreciate any assistance to help get through these difficult times together.

www.STACareers.com **Search Pennsylvania; Trafford Location**