



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL



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TOPIC

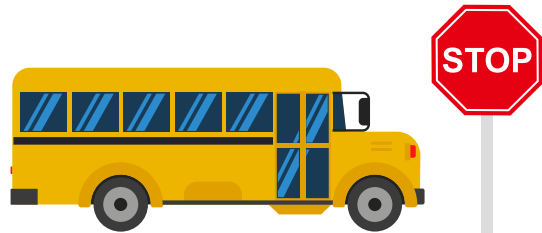
Intercampus Bus Transportation at ACHS

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Our report covers the issues of intercampus transportation between the Alexandria City High School and Minnie Howard campuses. This division of buildings was a result of the High School Project, and it affects both students and members of the community.

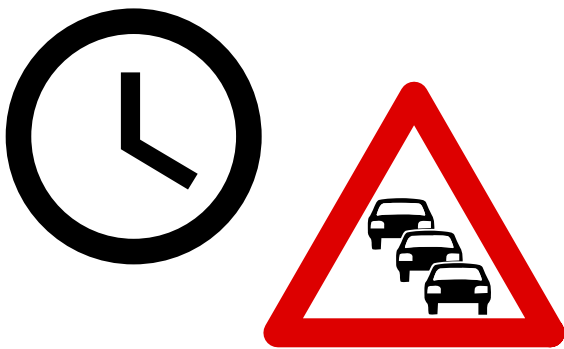
RESULT

The intended result of our report is to create an intercampus transportation system that is both more effective and efficient.



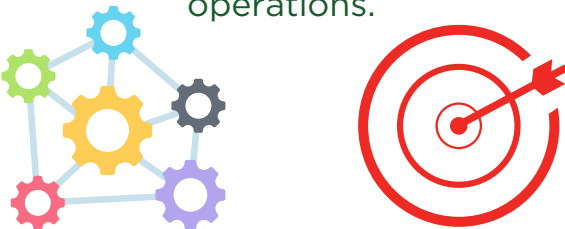
SIGNIFICANCE

Creating a more efficient transportation system between both campuses (Alexandria City High School and Minnie Howard) is important for the youth living in Alexandria as the current system of transportation has resulted in students feeling overwhelmed and discouraged as they have to do a lot just to get to their next class, resulting in missing crucial class time. A resolution is also important for the safety of the students as the poor system caused many to attempt to drive or walk to the other campus which proved to be incredibly dangerous due to the busy intersection that sits between both campuses. For example, when a shuttle bus hit a student's car earlier this school year.



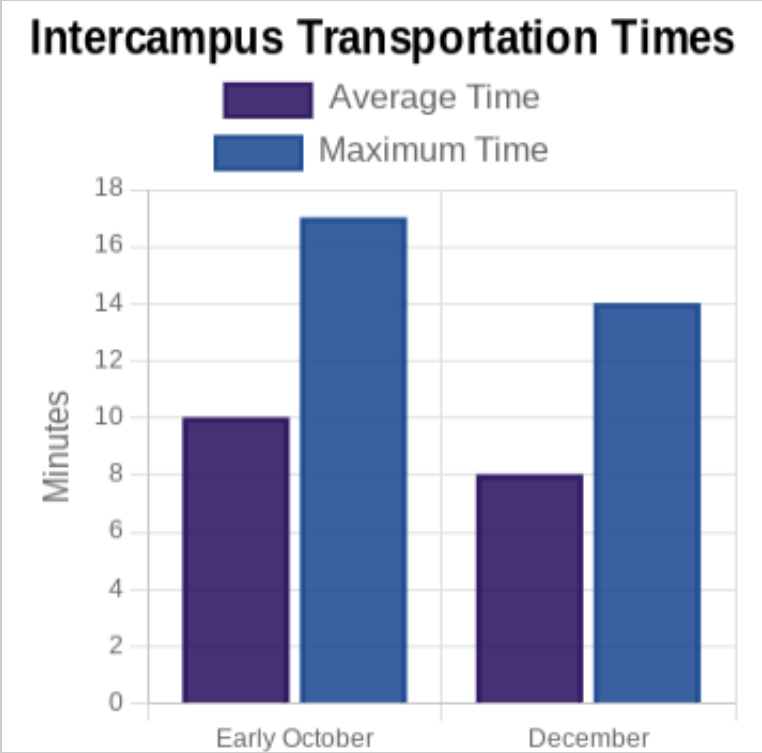
CYCP GOAL AND STRATEGIC AREA

Our report aligns with the Children and Youth Master Plan that focuses on creating coordinated and equitable systems/school facilities and operations.



HOW ARE WE DOING?

The buses only arrive at a good time roughly 50% of the time and we'd like for it to be at least 90% in the future.



IMPLEMENTATION

Currently, there has been an intercampus walking ban policy implemented at both campuses. There have been mixed responses to this ban, one side arguing for students to decide how they travel between campuses and the other not minding the current system. There have also been some who believe there should be a permanent separation of grades as there was in former years, with one school housing 9th and 10th and the other 11th and 12th grade.



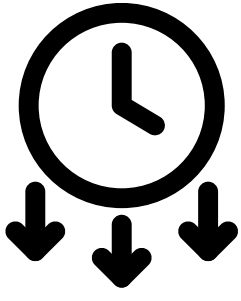
PARTNERSHIPS

- **Mr. Birch** - Lead administrator of operations and student support. Manages facilities and operations, covering transportation, the focus of our issue. He is also a part of the school improvement team and could help in resolving this problem.
- **Student Representatives of the School Board** - Take opinions of the students and report them to the board, allowing a link between the two.
- **Alexandria's Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES)** - Specialize in planning efficient transportation systems in Alexandria.



PERFORMANCE EFFORT

In the beginning of the school year, the time it took to travel between one campus to the other was high, the maximum nearing 18 minutes total. However, after the ban was implemented, the time has decreased, and now, the maximum time to travel has changed to be around 14 minutes.



Overall, the ban has showed favorable results, though, could be improved on so that the travel time decreases.

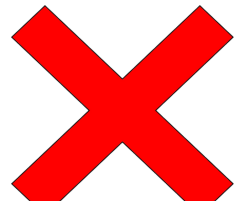
PERFORMANCE EFFECT

NEGATIVES:

- High student population due to ACHS being the only high school in the district
- Students skipping (led to walking between campuses being banned which could've been an alternative)
- Potential traffic

POSITIVES:

- Most students being allowed to leave classes early
- Transportation times have shortened compared to the start of the year
- Certain solutions are in serious discussion (ex: the use of dash buses)



RECOMMENDATIONS

Our policy recommendations would be to continue the walking ban policy as it ensures the safety of the students, something that could not be overseen previously. With the data shown by *Theogony*, it's clear that the system will continue to improve with time, though, there could be more done to make it better. Firstly, increasing the transition times would allow for students to make it to class on time without the worry of missing crucial information. However, if the ban were to be removed, allowing students to walk between campuses with the use of crossing guards would then ensure the safety of the students as they travel and fix the old problem.



ONLINE

To learn more about this topic, the student run paper, *Theogony* has information regarding the intercampus transportation system. Another source would be *ALXnow*, which features several articles that cover the troubled system.

IN PERSON

To learn more about this topic in person, you can reach out to Mr. Birch who manages facilities and operations at our school which covers transportation, the student representatives of the school board to hear their opinion, and Alexandria's T&ES who plan efficient transportation systems in the city.

CITATIONS

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