Dear IPS Parents/Guardians:

I’m excited to share news about an important transportation benefit being extended to all IPS high school students for the 2019-20 school year.

In 2018, IPS and IndyGo — the city’s public transit system — partnered to provide a pilot program encouraging high school students to use IndyGo buses instead of the district’s yellow bus transportation to get to and from school. The program began with students from Shortridge and Arsenal Technical high schools.

This school year, IPS and IndyGo are expanding the pilot program to include all IPS high school students from Arsenal Tech, Crispus Attucks, George Washington and Shortridge.

Beginning August 5, 2019, students can opt to ride IndyGo to and from school. (Many students from Herron, Riverside and Purdue Polytechnic currently use IndyGo as their main means of school transportation.) Similarly, high school students in several cities comparable to Indianapolis already depend on city transit to get to school.

The goal is twofold:

• To provide IPS high school students with a new benefit that offers greater mobility to navigate throughout the city while gaining new skills and independence as they move toward their post-secondary plans.
• In future years, to help IPS reduce its transportation budget significantly in order to increase resources to the classroom. This plan was communicated in the run up to the 2018 November election in which voters approved new funds for the district.

Student ID cards will be embedded with a FREE electronic bus pass — good from August 2019 to August 2020. To ride IndyGo, all students need to do is find the bus route that works best for them and tap their ID card once onboard. The electronic pass also allows students to commute to and from work and extracurricular activities, or to simply explore the city.

For the 2019-20 school year, IPS high school students will still receive a traditional yellow bus assignment and be allowed to ride their yellow bus to and from school whenever they choose. The use of IndyGo is being offered as an additional benefit.

To help parents and students learn more about the pilot program and how to use IndyGo, IPS has created the IPS & IndyGo Ride Guide to answer the most frequently asked questions.

Using IndyGo will take some getting used to for students who have never ridden the city bus. But, we believe that time and open communication among students, parents/guardians, IndyGo and IPS will result in better transportation opportunities for our students.

To encourage communication, IPS will launch an IndyGo Pilot Program Survey on August 6 at www.myips.org. The online questionnaire will allow parents, students and members of the community to provide open and honest feedback. IPS and IndyGo will review feedback regularly to determine how to improve the program for IPS students and all city transit riders.

We hope you’ll encourage your students to take advantage of this important opportunity.

Let’s Ride!

Aleesia Johnson
IPS Superintendent

-3-
**About IndyGo**

IndyGo, the brand name for the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, is a municipal corporation for the city of Indianapolis.

Since 1975, IndyGo has managed and operated the city's public transit system and is the largest public transportation provider in the state of Indiana.

IndyGo operates **31 bus routes throughout Marion County** and provides nearly 10 million passenger trips each year. The company, which is housed in the historic Duesenberg factory just west of downtown Indianapolis, has more than 500 employees.

**IndyGo Hours of Operation**

Buses run daily from 5 a.m. to midnight. The Red Line will run 20 hours a day — from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily.

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**Julia M. Carson Transit Center**

Located in downtown Indy, the Transit Center houses IndyGo's customer service representatives, a retail center and much more. Residents use the center for a variety of reasons, including as their initial pick-up and drop-off point, to transfer to another bus along their route, or to purchase bus passes.

**The Transit Center offers:**
- 19 covered bus bays with electronic information signs.
- Indoor and outdoor touch screens, featuring real-time transportation information.
- Free Wi-Fi.
- Charging stations.
- An indoor waiting area.
- Friendly customer service representatives.
- Public restrooms.
- Uniformed and undercover police officers.
- Security cameras.

The Transit Center is located at 201 E. Washington St., at the southeast corner of Delaware and Washington streets.

**Free IndyGo Rides for Parents**

IndyGo is offering a **FREE** bus pass for IPS high school parents/guardians of students from Arsenal Tech, Crispus Attucks, George Washington and Shortridge.

Parents can use the pass to do a “test run” with their student of the IndyGo system and to map the route that works best for them, ensuring confident student riders for the 2019-20 school year and beyond.

**Passes are available at your child’s school.**
The Red Line and Center Platform Stations

The Red Line is a new rapid transit service offering more frequent routes between Broad Ripple and the University of Indianapolis. It runs from Broad Ripple through downtown Indy to the University of Indianapolis, and features bus stop platforms in the center of the street along College Avenue, Meridian Street and various other points running north and south throughout the city.

*Shortridge students will have a Red Line stop at 34th and Meridian streets. *When the Red Line opens Sept. 1, adjustments will be made to some route patterns. Updates will be reflected on the myStop Mobile app, on paper routes and at the Transit Center. Additionally, hours will be extended to all evening routes and all routes will run every day.

The Legend

- Red Line Rapid Transit
- Red Line Station: Center
- Red Line Station: Curbside
- Transit Center

The Red Line and Center Platform Stations

When the Red Line opens on Sept. 1, 2019, buses will arrive every 10 minutes and operate for 20 hours daily seven days a week — cutting down on both wait and commute times for riders.

Red Line Station Platforms offer a variety of convenience and safety features, including:

- Snow melt systems.
- Lighting for easy visibility.
- Three security cameras per platform.
- A blue emergency call box.
- Transit security and fare inspectors patrolling throughout the day and night.
- Outside Tap Reader boxes to expedite the fare process.
- Real-time arrival screens featuring up-to-the-minute arrival times and bus directions.
- Charging stations.
- Free Wi-Fi.
Here’s how it works:

• Plan your route using the myStop Mobile app, the IndyGo website or via paper route schedules located in the office at each IPS high school.
• Be at your stop a few minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive (both for your morning route to school and afternoon route home).
• Enter the bus using the front doors only.
• Tap your school-issued ID card on the Tap Reader and find a seat.
• Once seated, pay attention to the electronic information board at the front of the bus. It lists each stop as it nears. Once your stop is listed or announced, pull the signal cord above — near the windows — to alert the driver to stop.
• Don’t forget to gather your personal items and exit the bus through the rear doors.

Each IPS high school is located near at least one major bus route, making access to public transit easy and efficient.

Note: Not all IndyGo bus routes are direct. Some routes may require students to take one or more buses (called a transfer) to get to and from school. Map your route in advance online to find out if transfers are needed.
Staying Safe While Riding
IndyGo is open to all residents and visitors to use. Because IndyGo is a public transportation system, there are certain safety measures the corporation has put in place to protect passengers.

• All IndyGo buses and the Transit Center and Red Line platforms are equipped with audio and video surveillance equipment. There are 20-plus cameras at the Transit Center.
• IndyGo partners with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and public safety agencies and it hires its own security force.
• Uniformed and undercover police officers ride IndyGo buses, monitor bus stops, and are present in and around the Transit Center to ensure the safety of all riders.

Ways to Stay Safe While Waiting for an IndyGo Bus
• Stay awake and alert.
• Be aware of your surroundings.
• Stay in well-lit areas when waiting for your bus.
• Keep your belongings close to you.
• Avoid isolated bus stops if possible and become familiar with the bus schedule.

*If you see suspicious or illegal behavior or notice unattended items, please immediately report it to your bus driver or nearby IndyGo staff, or call 317.635.3344. In case of an emergency, please dial 911 for an immediate response.

Let’s Talk About Safety
Ways to Stay Safe
Rider Guidelines

Rider Guidelines
Riding an IndyGo bus is open to everyone, but there are clear and defined rules that must be followed by riders in order to continue to use this public transportation service. Highlights of rider guidelines include:

Standing, Sitting and Personal Belongings
• Federal regulations prohibit the operation of any bus with riders standing ahead of the yellow or white line located on the floor near the driver’s seat. If a seat is available, please use it. If a seat is not available, please hold onto the rails.
• Seats in the front of the bus are reserved for expectant mothers and the elderly.
• Riders are discouraged from occupying more than one seat.
• Personal belongings should fit in a rider’s lap or under their seat.

Conduct and Noise
Disruptive behavior is prohibited on all IndyGo buses and at the Transit Center.

Examples of prohibited behavior include:
• Talking loudly on cell phones and loud ring tones.
• Playing loud music with or without earphones.
• Using profanity.
• Throwing objects.
• Making threats or hostile remarks.
• Fighting.
• Soliciting services or favors.
• Smoking, including e-cigarettes (all IndyGo buses are smoke-free).

*IndyGo supervisors, security staff or any responding law enforcement officer may remove riders for not following IndyGo policies.

For a more detailed list of guidelines, visit www.IndyGo.net.
Benefits of Riding IndyGo

In addition to being a more environmentally friendly way of getting around town, there are several benefits for students to use IndyGo.

Independence: Students learn to become more independent as they master navigating the state’s largest mass transit system.

Freedom: While IndyGo will mainly be used by students to get to and from school, many will also use the service for work, to attend extracurricular activities or simply explore the city.

Connectivity: Giving students the option to ride IndyGo connects them to the city at-large — making them feel more at ease with local residents and their surroundings.

I ride because...

I love how easy it is to use the MyStop Mobile app!

I get to school faster!

I have more after-school job opportunities.

I feel more independent.
CALL TO ACTION!

Youth Curfew Hours (City of Indianapolis)
According to the City of Indianapolis’ current curfew ordinance, teens ages 15 to 17 may not legally be in a public place without an adult from:
- 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Friday.
- 1-5 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.
This curfew also applies to IPS students riding IndyGo buses.

IPS & IndyGo Pilot Program Feedback Survey
On August 6, IPS will launch the IPS & IndyGo Pilot Program Feedback Survey.
The online survey allows parents, students and the community to provide their honest thoughts and suggestions about the pilot program. The survey can be accessed at www.myIPS.org.
Responses will be used to make a critical decision about transportation for IPS high school students.

Enhance Your Experience with IndyGo by using MYSTOP MOBILE APP TO MANAGE YOUR RIDE!

Need to map your route or find the best, fastest route for your trip? The myStop Mobile app offers real-time transit data for more than 39 public transit agencies across the United States, including IndyGo.

Students and parents can track IndyGo buses on their route, view real-time stop information, customize favorite routes, receive service alerts, and so much more.

It helps me move around the city.
Ride with IPS & IndyGo!

Contact Info
For questions or concerns related to IndyGo services (including routes, bus times, schedules, etc.), please call 317.635.3344. For questions or concerns related to IPS transportation services, please call the IPS Service Center at 317.226.4000.

Other Ways to Connect with IPS
Facebook.com/ipsschools @IPSSchools