



Drive learning

Put education in motion with E-Rate-funded Wi-Fi for school buses

On the bus and online: E-Rate supports Wi-Fi on school buses

Students who ride school buses spend an average of 146 hours, or about 24 school days, on the bus each year.¹ Why not add school bus Wi-Fi and turn buses into mobile hotspots? You may seek help from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s E-Rate program to extend critical internet access to those bus rides.

Benefits of Wi-Fi on school buses

In addition to extending the classroom activities into the transit system, adding connectivity to buses offers several other benefits that include:

- **Student productivity**

Simply put, the additional Wi-Fi access can help students learn. While some students ride for only a short time, and even if many use the internet for social media, games and other non-educational purposes, plenty of students will complete homework, read assignments or do research related to their schoolwork. Pilot programs and existing connectivity on buses have indicated that students on the morning commute to school regularly do schoolwork during the ride. While online work and play were more mixed in the afternoons, the access was largely used productively.

- **Inclusion**

Digital Inclusion and Homework Gaps are concerns nationwide. As of 2024, between 15 million and 16 million U.S. K-12 students lacked reliable internet access at home representing more than a quarter of total enrolled students.² In addition, one in five K-12 students in the U.S. attend schools in a rural district.³ These broadband deserts can create obstacles for students that on-bus Wi-Fi could help alleviate.

Schools with Wi-Fi on board have also been known to park the buses in neighborhoods with lesser or problematic access so students in the area could use the buses as mobile hot spots even when they're not riding.

- **Better behavior**

School buses can be loud and crazy when full of rambunctious (sometimes even violent) students. But focusing attention on a mobile device, whether for entertainment or school work, can help keep students occupied and well-behaved, according to data published in the "Bus Boss" blog, School Transportation News and other publications.

In fact, schools already using school bus Wi-Fi have discovered unforeseen bonuses. For instance, drivers can operate buses more safely, better able to keep their eyes on the road without the distractions of rowdy kids. Several school districts report a significant decrease in disciplinary issues after making the internet available on their buses. Students arrive at school noticeably calmer and in a better frame of mind for learning.



¹ Average school bus commute time (24.3 minutes, one way): <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED609382.pdf>

Length of school year (36 weeks typically): <https://www.joshpeete.com/superintendent-answers-how-many-weeks-in-a-school-year/>

Length of school day (6 hours typically): <https://ed100.org/lessons/schoolhours> or <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/09/07/in-the-u-s-180-days-of-school-is-most-common-but-length-of-school-day-varies-by-state/>

² <https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2024/03/closing-digital-divides-in-k12-lessons-from-netp-perfcon#:~:text=Some%20aspects%20of%20this%20divide,Benton%20Institute%20for%20Broadband%20%26%20Society>

³ <https://www.ntca.org/ruralschool/newsroom/news/back-school-broadband-bookmobile>

Graduate to Verizon Business Internet

Compared to traditional broadband, Verizon Wireless Business Internet provides better remote-learning connectivity—including on school buses. [Learn how](#) upgrading to this powerful foundation for digital learning can meet the needs of your K-12 students, teachers and staff.

- **Helpful data**

School bus Wi-Fi enables GPS, which can help keep students safe and accounted for. If there's an accident or a driver simply gets lost, schools and parents can follow buses in real time. Parents can pinpoint when their children arrive at home or at school, and intelligent video can help with monitoring behavioral incidents and other aspects of safety.

- **Educational support**

For teachers, coaches and other staff, on-bus Wi-Fi can be a big help. Field trips, competitions, tournaments and away games sometimes put them with students on buses for hours. Internet connectivity also provides faculty with work and entertainment options while on the road.

- **Improved emergency response**

In case of an emergency, mobile internet provides a critical failover for contacting first responders. Drivers and students on board are better able to call for help when they don't have to rely solely on cell coverage or radios.

First responders can use GPS to locate the emergency, and Wi-Fi access lets them communicate directly with bus drivers.



Why Verizon for education?

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For more information on options for mobile connectivity, contact your Verizon Education Account Manager, or visit [verizon.com/K12](https://www.verizon.com/K12).

