

Discussion Summary

Participants discussed various challenges and best practices related to scheduling BID meetings and transportation for students, especially those in foster care or special education. Key points included the importance of collaboration with other districts and transportation departments, the use of tools to streamline scheduling, and the need for a universal process for BID meetings across counties.

Highlights:

- Scheduling BID meetings can delay student transfers. Tools like Doodle Polls were recommended to improve scheduling efficiency and reduce email exchanges.
- Building strong relationships with transportation departments and other districts is crucial.
- Some districts contract with multiple transportation companies to assist students living outside the district.
- Collaboration and knowing contacts in other districts and services help in moving processes quickly.
- The suggestion to share block calendar schedules in advance was noted as beneficial.
- Calls for Pennsylvania to adopt a universal BID process were discussed, highlighting the complexity of dealing with different county procedures.
- Emphasis on the importance of persistence and proactive communication in ensuring smooth operations.
- Sharing documents and checklists, such as the BID checklist from Mercer County, was encouraged.
- Various transportation services and companies were mentioned, including EverDriven, HopSkipDrive, Assist Services, and PA Coach.
- Including student voices in BID meetings was deemed essential for shaping outcomes effectively.
- Challenges were noted regarding Act 1, especially in getting all parties to be flexible with credit allocations for graduation.

Overall, the meeting emphasized the importance of collaboration, communication, and utilizing tools and resources to improve the BID process and support for students.

Full Meeting Chat Text:

Please note that names have been replaced with initials for privacy.

Certainly! Here is the edited transcript with full names changed to initials:

14:17:31 From A.M. to Everyone:

Getting everyone scheduled for BID meetings can be a chore! Sometimes delaying the student starting in a new district.

14:17:32 From M.F. to Everyone:

When dealing with Transportation it is vital to have a great rapport with the surrounding school districts as well as your transportation secretary!

14:17:32 From H.P. to Everyone:

For transportation, my district has contracts with 3 alternate transportation companies to help students living outside of our district

14:17:38 From R.C. to Everyone:

Just a note of appreciation to R.M. for facilitating the BID process for us.

14:17:52 From H.N. to Everyone:

A simple best practice is getting to know people in other districts, services, and companies so that the work moves quickly and collaboratively.

14:18:39 From H.N. to Everyone:

A.M. - a Doodle Poll might help to schedule a group.

14:18:48 From A.M. to Everyone:

Reacted to "A.M. - a Doodle Poll..." with 🙌

14:18:48 From Dr. D.W. to Everyone:

It would be helpful to a more efficient process to schedule BID meetings such as Doodle Poll to decrease e-mails and increase response

14:19:02 From H.P. to Everyone:

Reacted to "It would be helpful ..." with 👍

14:19:23 From A.M. to Everyone:

Thank you for the doodle poll suggestion!

14:19:45 From B.S., CSC to Everyone:

Reacted to "Thank you for the do..." with ❤️

14:19:51 From S.R. to Everyone:

Since we are a smaller district, we work closely. I am the enrollment officer as well as the Homeless Liaison so I get to see all the enrollments. M. in our transportation office is in the office in admin and she is great with getting transportation asap

14:20:16 From S.O.-J. to Everyone:

Sharing block calendar schedules in advance between CCYA and LEA has helped some in Philadelphia

14:20:25 From S.R. to Everyone:

Doing a BID is good for us because we are small—

14:20:41 From A.M. to Everyone:

Working collaboratively is so helpful! Most times in Westmoreland county, things move smoothly! So I'm very thankful for that!

14:21:06 From L.R. to Everyone:

It would be beneficial if PA would adopt a universal process for BID's and such. Each county has a different and it can get complicated sometimes.

14:22:57 From K.D. to Everyone:

Reacted to "It would be benefici..." with 👍

14:23:01 From S.F. to Everyone:

Being persistent and making the calls. I cannot always depend on the agency making contact with me first. I follow up on any leads I hear from staff. So, staff training on what to be mindful of and report is important too.

14:23:08 From S.H. to Everyone:

Always let the county liaison know if something would be easier!

14:23:21 From H.N. to Everyone:

I received a BID checklist for decision making form from a school district in Mercer County: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L_5PBfNScxHSf5EdQ6Sd0xNLYOfaXk-t/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101770154992184689456&rtpof=true&sd=true

14:23:22 From A.M. to Everyone:

Reacted to "Being persistent and..." with 🙌

14:23:46 From R.M. to Everyone:

Reacted to "Just a note of appre..." with ❤️

14:24:04 From S.R. to Everyone:

Our LEA usually makes the first contact

14:25:26 From B.S., CSC to Everyone:

Reacted to "Always let the count..." with ❤️

14:25:27 From A.M. to Everyone:

I hope it's me who is the CCYA for Westmoreland. But unfortunately, I'm not always aware.

14:26:18 From M.F. to Everyone:

Reacted to "I received a BID c..." with 👍

14:26:32 From H.N. to Everyone:

Yes - I received it from the sending school and thought it looked to be helpful.

14:26:52 From S.R. to Everyone:

Thanks H.—that is helpful

14:30:25 From S.R. to Everyone:

Replying to "Yes - I received it ..."

Thank you—looks very helpful


14:30:58 From M.F. to Everyone:

None at this time

14:31:04 From S.H. to Everyone:

When we send out the initial notification, we highlight if the child is special education in the email so we get that department in the email chain right away

14:31:36 From M.F. to Everyone:

Reacted to "When we send out t..." with 

14:31:55 From S.R. to Everyone:

If I did have one, our Spec Education Director will be notified asap

14:33:03 From M.B. to Everyone:

Highly Mobile Letter 2022: <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/letter-to-state-directors-of-special-education-on-ensuring-a-high-quality-education-for-highly-mobile-children-november-10-2022/>

14:33:30 From M.B. to Everyone:

Highly Mobile Letter 2013:
https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/policy_speced_guid_idea_letters_2013-3_dearcolleague07192013highlymobile3q2013.pdf

14:34:18 From M.B. to Everyone:

EDMs and Surrogate Parents in PA: https://www.elc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ELC_Fact-Sheet_Ed_DecisionMakers_4_15_14.pdf

14:36:10 From D.E. to Everyone:

Lincoln University is welcoming to first generation students

14:36:28 From M.B. to Everyone:

New: Scholarship Guide - The-Field-Center-FC2C-Scholarship-List-2024.pdf
(fieldcenteratpenn.org)


14:37:00 From M.B. to Everyone:

Reacted to "Lincoln University i..." with 

14:40:51 From D.H. to Everyone:

Act 1 has been so powerful in making graduation plans and moving students through graduation. We have utilized Act 1 several times for students.

14:41:04 From R.M. to Everyone:

Reacted to "Act 1 has been so po..." with 

14:43:53 From A.M. to Everyone:

I love the idea of Act 1. But it's tough to get all parties on board with being super flexible with giving credits

14:44:11 From A.M. to Everyone:

We have great success in our county with the schools waiving any costs.

14:45:21 From R.P. to Everyone:

It is wonderful that documentation of completed programming while in care can be utilized for electives - we just need to get better about knowing who has complete those programs (ie transitional living in group home settings) to obtain that documentation/honor credits.

14:45:26 From A.M. to Everyone:

Thank you! Sorry not trying to be a negative Nancy today!

14:47:49 From A.R. to Everyone:

Reacted to "It is wonderful that..." with 

14:49:09 From D.H. to Everyone:

Flexible on the platform - could only pick one.

14:50:51 From A.R. to Everyone:

Sorry I was late! Was with students. Thank you for recording to view later and hosting this!

14:51:32 From D.H. to Everyone:

Trying to get transportation set up ASAP. Our transportation team is phenomenal but they can only do what they can do!

14:52:36 From R.M. to Everyone:

Some of the SD's use car service companies

14:52:43 From A.R. to Everyone:

There's an alternative transportation called EverDriven in some locations. It can be expensive though which is an obstacle

14:53:02 From H.P. to Everyone:

Assist Services, EverDriven, and First Alt

14:53:03 From A.R. to Everyone:

There's HopSkipDrive as well

14:53:07 From H.P. to Everyone:

Also we work with PA Coach

14:53:21 From W.K. to Everyone:


More students participating in BIDs

14:53:54 From A.R. to Everyone:

Oh that would be awesome W.!

Awareness of all who should be involved in BIDs, and what documentation should be shared with all ahead of time!

14:53:55 From E.F. to Everyone:


Reacted to "Oh that would be awe..." with 

14:53:56 From C.P. to Everyone:


Replying to "More students partic..."

Agree when the student voice is heard it can help shape the outcome greatly!

14:53:59 From E.F. to Everyone:

Removed a  reaction from "Oh that would be awe..."

14:54:02 From E.F. to Everyone:

Reacted to "More students partic..." with 

14:54:08 From A.R.