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**News**

**Bus Stop Reduction: Changes for BPSD go into effect January 4**

*By Special to the E-E*

*Friday, December 18, 2009 2:12 PM CST*

Bartlesville Public School District plans to change its bus routes to eliminate 118 stops — a 19 percent reduction, BPSD officials announced Wednesday.

The BPSD's Transportation Department has recently conducted an optimization study on its bus routes, and the resulting changes will be put into effect when students return from winter break on Jan. 4.

Working with Edulog, which offers software to make school bus routing more effective, the district was able to eliminate 118 stops. BPSD custodial and transportation supervisor Fred Auschwitz and head mechanic Orville Burks



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have been working with the Edulog software to streamline bus routes since July. They found some stops which were as close as 100 yards apart that could be eliminated. With less starting and stopping, the district should be able to recognize savings in terms of better gas mileage for its vehicles as well as less wear and tear on brakes, school officials say.

“Care was taken to ensure that all of those students who are currently able to utilize the BPSD bus system will still be able to do so after the changes are implemented,” BPSD Community Relations Coordinator David Austin said in a press release issued this week.

The BPSD runs 22 regular education school buses every day — for pickup and drop-off routes — as well as five special needs buses. The regular education buses typically travel to three different schools both in the morning and afternoon hours, resulting in approximately 132 regular education bus routes per day. The special needs buses typically travel several times per day between school sites as they are needed. After the changes are unveiled on Jan. 4, the closest stops on any of the routes will be 400 yards apart, which equates to 1,200 feet.

The new bus routes as well as the current ones are currently on display via the BPSD Web site at [www.bps-ok.org](http://www.bps-ok.org). The new routes are listed on the front page of the Web site in a light blue box along the left side.

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The advertisement features a woman with blonde hair, Keshia Gray, smiling. To her left are three 3D house models on a green lawn, each with a large dollar sign cutout in its front. The background is a light blue sky.

“The biggest savings we will realize will be in fuel costs,” said Burks. “Stopping and going is typically when you lose all of your fuel mileage. That’s why in-town

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The advertisement includes two small images: the top one shows a woman's face with her hand near her ear, and the bottom one shows a close-up of a woman's face with her eyes closed, likely during a treatment. The background is a light blue gradient with a subtle circular pattern.

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The advertisement features a smiling sun wearing sunglasses in the top left corner. The text is in various colors and fonts, with 'SUMMER savings' in large, bold letters. The background is a bright blue.

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The advertisement shows the word 'WINDLE'S' in a large, serif font. The background is white with a thin black border.

and highway mileage is always so different — there's so much more stopping and going in town.

"I think we've made some good changes which will save the district money, but still provide effective and convenient bus service for our students."

Auschwitz and Burks went through each bus route one by one to see where changes could be made. In addition to eliminating some stops which were nearby others, they did some re-routing, also. The Edulog software allowed Auschwitz and Burks to see a big picture of all of their routes and stops, and it made suggested changes, many of which were implemented.

Bus drivers this week were to give hard copies of the new routes to each student passenger so that they can be passed along to parents and guardians.

Winter break within the Bartlesville Public School District will span from Monday through Jan. 1. During this time, no classes will be in session. The current bus routes will be effective through Friday. The new routes will take effect on the morning of Jan. 4, during pickup routes for the start of the school day.

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