THE EDULOG CLIENT NEWSLETTER

EDULOGGER

Connecting the People Who Move Education Forward Q3 Issue | Oct. 2, 2026

EXCITING NEWS!

What's New in Parent Portal

By Andréa Brunson

We've rebuilt the Parent Portal app from the ground up — and it's rolling out with a set of upgrades designed to make life easier for families and your team alike.

Now Available on the Web
The full Parent Portal experience is now available as a web app, reaching families on Chromebooks, desktops, or any device without app store access. https://portal.edulog.com/

Edit Pending Requests
When a student request doesn't match district records, an alert banner lets parents know it's Pending. Parents can now edit and resubmit the request instead of deleting it and starting over.

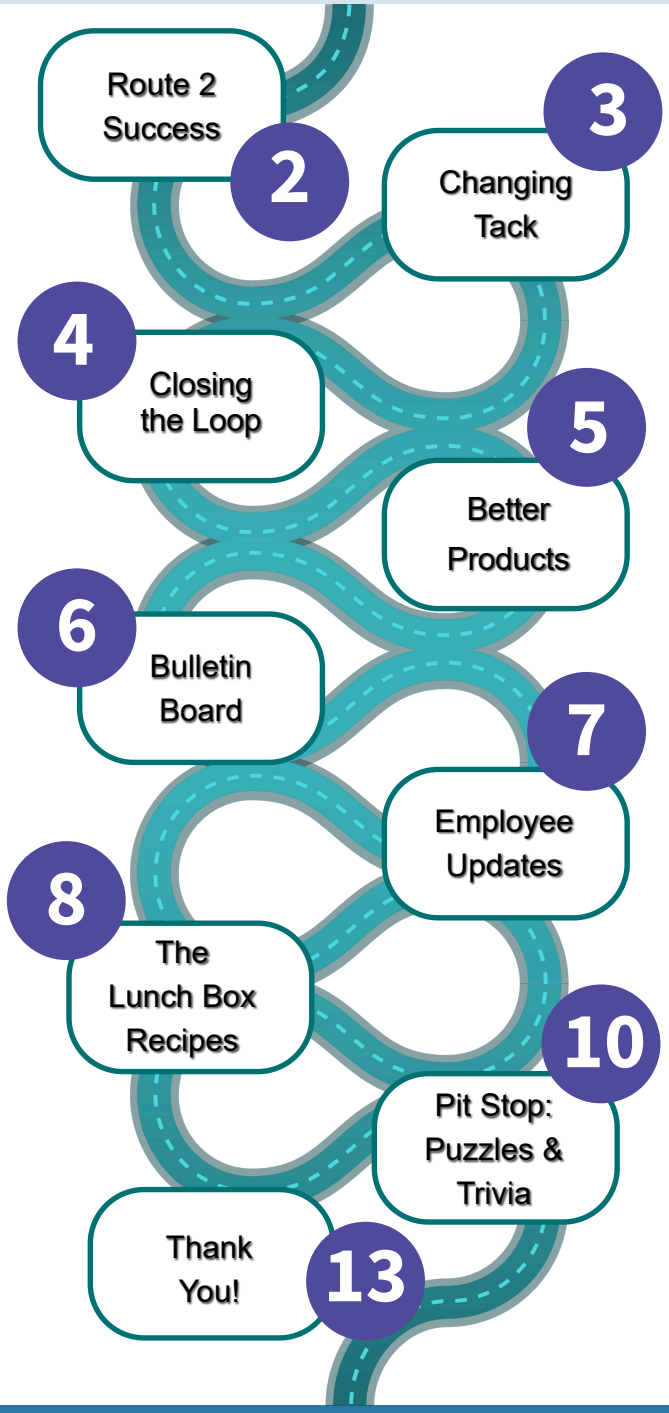
Additional Languages
The Language list expanded from 5 to 15 languages. Each one now shows its flag and native name.

Appearance
Parents can personalize how the app looks with a Light, Dark, or System theme. New accessibility options, Reduce Motion, High Contrast, and Large Text, make the app easier to see and use.

FAQ
Answers to common questions are now built into the app, so parents can find help without leaving the Parent Portal.

Check your email for the Parent Portal resources that have been sent to your district.

THIS ISSUE'S ROAD MAP



Route 2 Success: Customer Advisory Board

By Christy Spivey, Chief Customer Officer

Building the Road Map Together

Every route starts with someone who knows the road. Your team knows which stops back up on rainy mornings, which neighborhoods grew over the summer, and which schedules only work on paper. That knowledge is what turns a plan into a route that runs smoothly.

Software works the same way. The tools that serve districts best are shaped by the people who use them every day. That's the idea behind the Edulog Customer Advisory Board, which launches this fall.

A seat at the planning table

The Customer Advisory Board brings together a small group of transportation directors from the districts we serve. They'll meet virtually with Edulog's Customer Success and Product leaders a few times a year. Together, they'll talk through where our products are headed, what's working in their operations, and what's getting in the way.

Each meeting will focus on one topic, such as a challenge districts are facing or a set of priorities we're weighing. The goal is a practical conversation between the people who run transportation and the people who build the tools that support it.

Why it matters

We hear from districts every day through support, training, and conversations with our team. That feedback is valuable, but it usually arrives one issue at a time. This new advisory board lets us step back and look at the bigger picture with you: which problems matter most, which ideas are worth pursuing, and what success looks like from your side of the operation.

Members will help shape our priorities, and we'll report back on what we heard and how it's shaping our work. Directors will also get to compare notes with peers who face the same pressures in different places. That may turn out to be one of the most useful parts of the whole experience.

Who we're looking for

Our first group will be small, about 8 to 12 transportation directors, and we want a mix of district sizes, regions, and ways of using Edulog, so the board reflects everyone we serve.

Success in student transportation has never been a solo trip. If you'd like to join this first group, or want to recommend someone, talk with your Customer Success Manager or reach out to me at cspivey@edulog.com.



Changing Tack: Setting Course in Stormy Seas

By Spencer Jenko

As another summer season draws to a close across North America, the Fall semester is getting into full swing. Many districts already started in August, and with Labor Day now in the rear-view mirror nearly every public education institution is back for another school year. For some transportation departments, the arrival of September is synonymous with a “quieting down” in operations, as bus routes solidify and ride requests slow to a trickle. For others, it is a time of reckoning as their existing bus fleets strain under both new and ongoing challenges.

Maintaining a student transportation system is already a demanding role for its leaders, even in the easiest and most stable of conditions. It demands daily coordination of resources, enough staff to drive buses, communication with parents, and of course adequate funding. And whatever balance that has been painstakingly fought for in the previous school year can and will change, sometimes without warning and from unknown directions.

The Advisory Service Group (ASG) has seen many such threats to school transportation arise in recent years, and over the past 12 months our group has been busy helping school districts across the nation as they try to change course in the face of new headwinds.

Some of the challenges the ASG has helped district with include:

- Redesigning bus routes across an entire district in West Virginia in order to address driver shortages.
- Restructuring school-bell times in North Carolina to reduce ride times and retain access to education.
- Reworking driver park-outs and bus depot assignments in Ontario to reflect a new operational shift.
- Simulating transportation for a boundary redistricting project in Washinton State to measure impacts.
- Validating capacity issues as a 3rd party in Louisiana in order to justify additional bus resources.
- Defending transportation departments in Maryland against damaging policies that are proposed.
- Training and educating new staff through school startup in Tennessee, amidst sweeping changes.

In too many of these cases, the district faced the choice of pushing efficiency aside in order to “plug holes” and keep the ship from sinking. This type of reaction mode is common to see during the Fall school startup season, but sadly many districts find themselves unable get out of this cycle. Many leaders in transportation are hungry to change their transportation for the better, but face too many unknowns and/or too few resources to see it done correctly in their eyes.

It is here that the Advisory Service Group has worked with school districts in need of extra help – be it during the planning process, the implementation process, and even the budgetary process. Our teams strive to provide that additional assistance to transportation departments wherever we can, especially for those who have reached out to Edulog asking for it. When you extend a hand in need, we want to be the ones there to help you back up on your feet.

Just like sailors that must navigate the open water, the current state of education and transportation in America demand careful planning, and a need to change tack when the headwinds shift. And just like the uncertainly of what lies beyond the horizon, the stormy seas that surround districts today bode ill for student transportation in the coming years.

Closing the Loop: What Planned-vs-Actual Routing Really Looks Like in the Field

By Andréa Brunson

Route planning software gives you the best route on paper. What happens after the route leaves the building is a different story — and that story is exactly what Jerry, one of our Training Specialists who teaches the comparative analysis telematics course in our Customer Education program, walks through with every session. His take is simple: a route plan was never meant to be a one-and-done exercise. It's a loop, and understanding that loop is what separates routing that stays efficient from routing that slowly drifts out of date.

It's a Loop, Not a One-Time Plan

As Jerry describes it, the cycle plays out in a consistent pattern: you plan the route as best you can with the tools available, get it out to the driver to review, and the driver runs it. From there, the driver adjusts as needed for conditions on the ground that are genuinely hard to quantify in software — road construction being the most obvious example, but far from the only one.

You plan your routes as best you can with the tools you have, get it out to the driver to review and drive. They run the route as planned, adjusting as needed for situations on the ground that are hard to quantify in the software.
— Jerry, Senior Training Specialist

The Variable Software Can't See: Parking

Construction gets talked about often, but Jerry points to a quieter variable that shapes routing just as much: on-street parking. A street can look perfectly routable on a map, and still be effectively closed to a school bus in practice. If enough cars are parked along the curb, a bus may not be able to safely pass or make a corner turn without risking contact with a parked vehicle — and that's rarely something a district finds out until a driver actually runs the route.

When that happens, the driver works around it in the moment, and the deviation gets recorded in the GPS data automatically.

From there, it becomes a communication exercise: the driver talks with the routers about what happened, or the routers notice the variance themselves if they're watching the data. Either way, good communication between driver and router is what turns a one-off workaround into a real improvement — for that route, and for any other route planned through the same area. Once the map and the route are updated to reflect what's actually drivable, the route gets reviewed again over the following days to catch any further adjustments needed. It's that repeated cycle — plan, drive, adjust, communicate, update, review — that keeps the plan honest.

A Practical Tool: Screenshotting GPS Stop Data for Run Planning

As part of his telematics training, Jerry also teaches a simple technique that supports this same loop: capturing a screenshot of the GPS stop data for a run and keeping it as a reference for run planning. When a stop location needs to be adjusted — whether because of a safety concern, a parking issue, or a change on the ground — that screenshot gives routers a quick, concrete reference point for exactly where the bus actually stopped versus where the plan expected it to stop, without having to dig back through raw GPS logs.

The Common Thread

Telematics doesn't replace the judgment of the people planning and driving the route — it gives them a shared, accurate picture to work from. The routes that stay efficient over time are the ones where drivers, routers, and the data are all talking to each other, on a loop that never really closes.

Better Products Start with Better Conversations

By Basia Kobylenski

Every school transportation operation is different. Districts are all working toward the same fundamental goal—getting students where they need to go safely and efficiently—while navigating challenges like tighter budgets, rising costs, driver shortages, and increasingly complex student needs. How each district accomplishes that can vary tremendously.

That's exactly why we want to hear from you—and why we're changing the way we think about designing our products.

As we look toward the future of Edulog software, we're embracing a more flexible approach to product design. Rather than building a feature around one prescribed way of working and asking customers to adapt their processes to it, we want to build tools that can adapt to the different ways our customers operate. Wherever possible, the software should conform to the needs of your operation—not the other way around.

That's a meaningful shift in how we think about what we build, and it makes conversations with our customers more important than ever.

Over the years, working with districts across the country has taught me that there is no single “right” way to run a transportation operation. A large urban district may be managing thousands of students across a complex network of schools and programs, while a rural district may be balancing long routes with limited transportation resources. Some districts have highly specialized transportation requirements. Others operate year-round schools, rely heavily on contractors, or have processes that have evolved over many years to meet the needs of their communities.

Those differences have taught us an important lesson about efficiency: making everyone work the same way isn't necessarily the same as making everyone's work easier.

When a customer comes to us with a specific request, one of the most valuable questions we can ask is: Why?

What are you trying to accomplish? What are you doing manually today? Where are you losing time? What happens when the current process doesn't work?

Understanding the problem behind the request helps us look beyond an individual feature and find opportunities to solve a broader challenge. What initially sounds like a need unique to one district may represent a problem many transportation teams experience in different ways.

We're carrying those lessons directly into the future of our products. As we design new experiences and rethink existing ones, we're using what we've learned from years of customer feedback and real-world use to create solutions that provide structure where it's helpful and flexibility where it's needed.

And that learning doesn't stop.

Continued on the next page



USERS GROUP REMINDER

October | Case Study: Implementing Efficiency Changes

Hosted by Spencer Jenko

Spencer Jenko shares how districts have successfully put efficiency improvements into action. Bring your questions because this one is full of takeaways.

Tradeshow Schedule

Fall 2026 conferences

Tradeshow Name	Conference Start Date	Conference End Date	Tradeshow City	Tradeshow State
NAPT 2026	10/3/2026	10/7/2026	Louisville	Kentucky
TASA - Fall 2026	10/8/2026	10/11/2026	Houston	Texas
ON ASBO 2026 - Fall	10/30/2026	10/31/2026	Niagra Falls	Ontario
TSDP 2026	11/5/2026	11/10/2026	Frisco	Texas
NASDPTS 2026	11/14/2026	11/17/2026	Arlington	Virginia

Continued from page 5.

If there's something about your operation that you wish we understood better, we want to hear about it. Show us the complicated workflow. Tell us about the workaround your team uses every day. Tell us what takes ten steps when you think it should take two. And tell us what's working well that you don't want to lose

Those conversations give us a better understanding of the problems transportation teams are solving every day—and ultimately help us build better products to solve them.

The route to better software starts with understanding the people who use it.

If you'd like to be part of that conversation, reach out to us at Edulog

Welcome to Edulog!

We are thrilled to welcome the following new team members.



Stephanie Inman
Revenue Operations Manager

Stephanie is based in Allen, Texas, just north of Dallas, and brings 13 years of K-12 EdTech experience to the team — so this space already feels like home. Most recently, she managed the people and processes connecting Sales, Finance, and Implementation, keeping more than 15,000 opportunities a year moving cleanly from close to activation.

Outside of work, Stephanie tears through thriller novels, plays console games, and crochets while watching TV (she's usually got something on in the background — bonus points if you're also a Great British Bake Off fan). She hand-makes competition dog show award rosettes, and competes in barn hunt with her heeler mix, Gideon — a collaborative, scent-based sport that's essentially a hay bale maze with live rats hidden inside. Yes, it's exactly as niche as it sounds.

Coffee is non-negotiable (mostly cream, always), and she's firmly Team Pepsi in any room that asks.

Stephanie is looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to work — say hello when you get the chance!



Sai Sree Korrapati
IT Technician

Sai Sree Korrapati is an international student from India who recently completed her Master's in Computer Science at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. She's just joined the IT team and is looking forward to getting to know everyone and getting started at Edulog.

A little about her: she loves cooking (and is always up for restaurant recommendations!), going for runs, and playing badminton — which she considers herself pretty good at. Outside of work, she's looking forward to exploring Missoula and settling into life here.

Say hello when you get the chance!

Slow Cooker Dr Pepper Pulled Pork

By Jerry Knox



Prep Time
10 minutes

Cook Time
8 Hours

8-10 Servings

INGREDIENTS

1 (3-4 lb) pork roast
1 tablespoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 (12 oz.) can Dr Pepper
1 cup barbecue sauce
Rolls or sandwich buns, for serving

Pork roast is cooked in Dr Pepper and seasonings until tender, then shredded and served on crusty buns. Easy and delicious, it's a great way to feed a crowd or just a hungry family.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a small bowl, combine paprika, pepper, cayenne, garlic powder, onion powder and salt. Rub over pork roast.
2. In a lightly greased slow cooker, whisk together Dr Pepper and barbecue sauce. Place roast in slow cooker. Cover and cook on low for 8-10 hours.
3. Remove roast from slow cooker and shred with two forks. Return to slow cooker and toss with cooking liquid (if there is too much liquid, remove some before returning the roast to the slow cooker).
4. Serve shredded pork on sandwich buns with additional barbecue sauce, if desired.

CHEF NOTES

I prefer baby Ray's BBQ sauce and the smell it makes all day when cooking is just amazing. I learned this recipe during covid.

NUTRITION INFORMATION

Amount Per Serving: CALORIES: 142 TOTAL FAT: 3g SATURATED FAT: 1g TRANS FAT: 0g UNSATURATED FAT: 2g CHOLESTEROL: 10mg SODIUM: 698mg CARBOHYDRATES: 25g FIBER: 1g SUGAR: 17g PROTEIN: 4g

Cuppa Cuppa Cake

By Jerry Knox

The "Cuppa Cuppa Cake" is a legendary dessert made famous by Dolly Parton's character, Truvy Jones, in the 1989 southern classic movie Steel Magnolias.



Course: Dessert | Servings: Serves 6

INGREDIENTS

¼ cup unsalted butter, divided
1 cup self-rising flour
1 cup granulated sugar
1 (15-oz.) can fruit cocktail in juice, undrained
Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F and generously grease a 9-inch pie dish or cake pan with butter.
2. In a large bowl, mix together flour, sugar, and fruit cocktail (with the juices) until just combined.
3. Transfer batter to the prepared pan.
4. Slice remaining butter into small pats and place on top of batter.
5. Bake cake for 35-40 minutes or until top is golden in color.
6. Allow cake to cool for a minimum of 10 minutes before serving
7. Top with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream



Word Scramble
Theme: Student Transportation

Each set of letter spells out a word from the world of student transportation. Write your answers on the blank line provided. Think of routing, mapping, and student components to unscramble the word.
Answers on page 12.

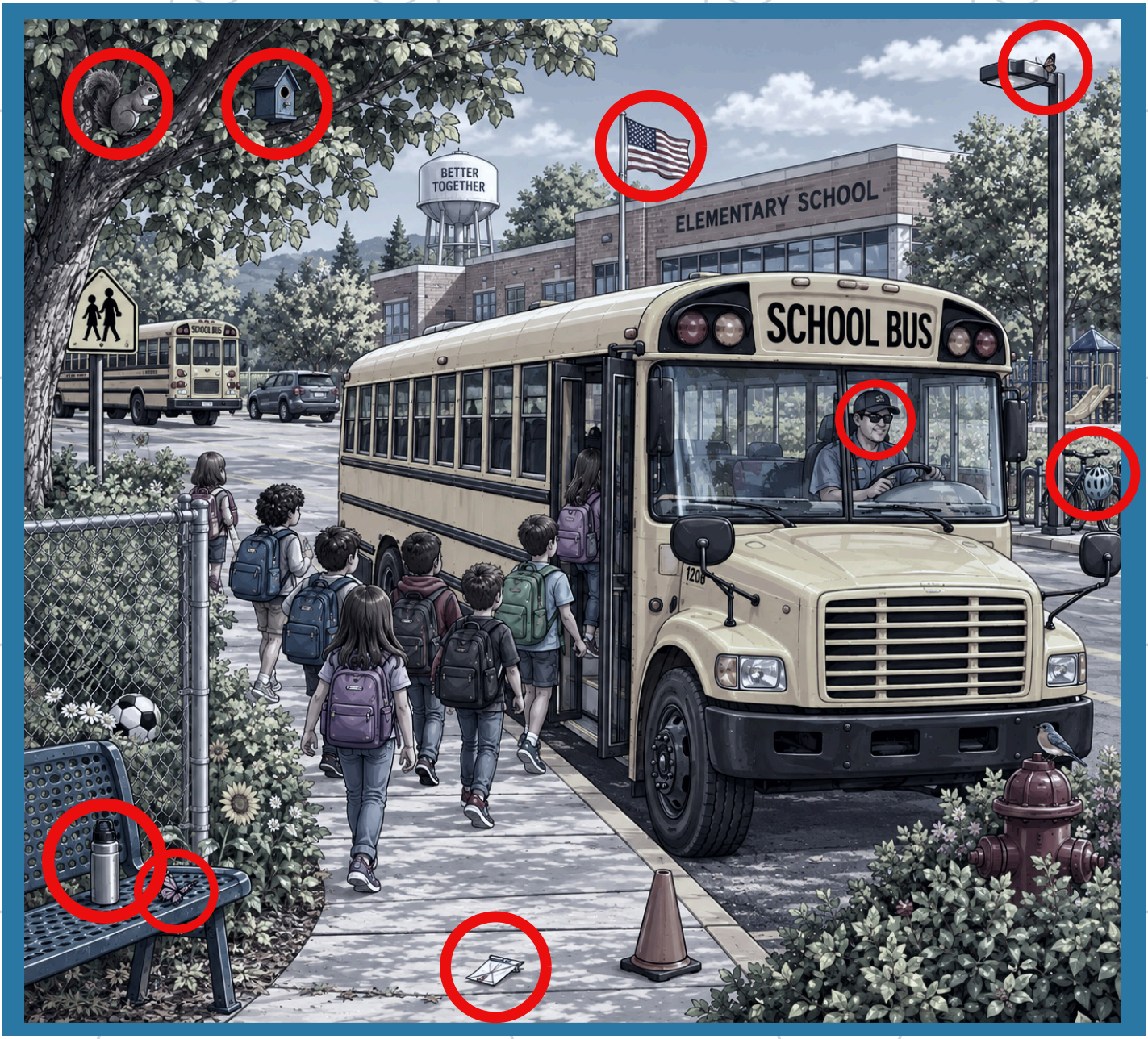
1. N O C I A D U T E _____
2. C E H I V E L _____
3. T R O U E _____
4. T P O S _____
5. S P T A D I C H _____
6. V R I D R E _____
7. M E N G E S T _____
8. T U D E T N S _____
9. M O P G R A R _____
10. P I R T _____

Find the Hidden Objects



Birdhouse
Water bottle
Envelope
Squirrel
2 Butterflies
Helmet
Sunglasses
American Flag

Hidden Objects Answers



Birdhouse
Water bottle
Envelope
Squirrel
2 Butterflies
Helmet
Sunglasses
American Flag

Word Scramble Answers

1. education
2. vehicle
3. route
4. stop
5. dispatch
6. driver
7. segment
8. student
9. program
10. trip

THANK YOU!

To find our more about our host of products and services, please see our contact information below.

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