

Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools

*Howells Attendance Center:
418 May Street
P.O. Box 15
Howells, NE 68641-0159*

*Phone: (402) 986-1621
Fax: (402) 986-1261*



**Mark Ernst, Superintendent
Zach Rosenboom, 7-12 Principal/A.D.
Christine Radcliff, Elementary Principal**

*Dodge Attendance Center:
209 Ash Street
P.O. Box 308
Dodge, NE 68633-0308*

*Phone: (402) 693-2207
Fax: (402) 693-2209*

Dear Howells-Dodge Families,

As we prepare for the start of the 2026–2027 school year, we want to provide an important update regarding student transportation services.

Like last school year, we will begin the year by offering **partial bus routes** due to the continued shortage of bus drivers. Beginning with the first day of school:

- **The North route will be picked up in the morning.**
- **The South route will be dropped off in the afternoon.**

At **semester**, these routes will switch:

- **The South route will be picked up in the morning.**
- **The North route will be dropped off in the afternoon.**

Our office transportation assistant, Candy Speirs will be communicating with families about transportation and we will work out pick up times in the near future.

We are excited about the potential of another driver who is currently working toward obtaining their Commercial Driver's License (CDL). If this individual successfully completes the licensing process and joins our transportation team, we hope to reinstate our full bus routes. We will keep families informed of any changes as they occur. This is still a work in progress.

The district will also continue to provide shuttle service between the Dodge and Howells school buildings. If you would like your student(s) to ride the shuttle, or if you plan to pick up or drop off your student in either Howells or Dodge instead, please contact the school so we can make the appropriate arrangements. Student shuttle from Dodge will leave at 7:40 a.m., be there by 7:35. Howells shuttles will leave at 7:50 a.m., be there by 7:45.

Families who have previously utilized district transportation may be eligible for partial transportation reimbursement if they:

- Live more than three miles from the nearest district pick-up point,
- Have a student attending the Howells-Dodge Consolidated School District as a resident of the district.
- Please contact Mr. Ernst for more information.

Option enrollment students who qualify for free meals are also eligible for reimbursement. Students who reside within the district but do not attend Howells-Dodge Consolidated School are not eligible.

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We understand that these temporary transportation adjustments may create challenges for some families, and we sincerely appreciate your patience and flexibility. Our commitment to providing safe and reliable transportation remains a priority, and we are actively pursuing every opportunity to restore full transportation services as soon as possible.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a bus driver, please contact me at 402-986-1621 or mernst@hdcjags.org. Training and support are available for qualified candidates.

Thank you for your continued understanding, cooperation, and support of Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools.

Sincerely,



Mark Ernst
Superintendent