



Hurricane Harvey

Texas

The Scenario

In December 2017, ALC Schools successfully completed the routing and transportation of more than 650 school children affected by Hurricane Harvey across the Houston, Texas-area. ALC Schools was charged with the logistics of working with multiple school districts in the area to route and schedule school transportation for those children impacted by the hurricane. Since ALC Schools had a contract in place with National IPA, the transportation management company was able to start immediately.

The Challenge

The task at hand was challenging due to unique and complex logistics scenarios. The Houston-area school districts cover a broad geographic area, where the farthest distance north to south can be 90-minutes in transit. Following Hurricane Harvey, the Houston-area suffered a loss of both school buses and school bus drivers. Sourcing and vetting fully credentialed drivers was a sizeable task, as was the process of informing parents of the new transportation arrangements.

Because of the fluidity of many families' circumstances, oftentimes by the time transportation was assigned, families had again relocated due to temporary lodging constraints. In addition, some students had to attend new schools because their old schools were shut down. Many of the children being transported were special needs students.

The Solution

ALC Schools' Model for Alternative Transportation Needs

ALC Schools supplements districts' transportation programs using a combination of SUVs, minivans, wheelchair accessible vans, and sedans to assist in transporting McKinney-Vento, ESSA, ESE/special needs, and out-of-district students, as well as hard-to-serve and multi-district trips. Supplementing bus service

ALC Schools Hurricane Harvey Support by the Numbers

Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, ALC Schools supported initial requests to transport 151 unique student passengers, with multiple students riding in the morning or afternoon only.

- Throughout the school year, ALC Schools supported transportation requests to and from 77 different schools of attendance, including 40 schools with only one student in attendance. This equates to 52% of the schools with only one student in attendance.
- From October 2017 to April 2018, ALC Schools accommodated more than 900 transportation requests to either add/drop students, change pickup locations, etc.

Until the end of the school year, ALC continued to transport 400-plus students under the Hurricane Harvey Transportation Relief Program.

with small capacity vehicles means that districts no longer pay for unused capacity and have the flexibility to expand and contract their fleet to accommodate the ever-changing demands of these student populations. ALC accomplishes all this while reducing the cost of transportation programs by 20-30%.

The ALC Difference

At ALC Schools, our focus is on fulfilling districts' special transportation needs. Every day we coordinate trips for thousands of students, yet we never lose sight of the importance of each student's individual and unique circumstances.

Because we focus on special transportation needs, we are able to offer a level of personalized service found nowhere else, including:

Significantly Reduced Costs

Today, every dollar counts – especially education dollars. ALC can save school districts 20-30% on average and provide improved service. This is a claim we can prove and one that seems hard to ignore.

Parent/Guardian Meeting

Prior to transporting any student, their parent/guardian will have the opportunity to meet with an ALC Schools representative to discuss all aspects of the student's transportation needs.

We understand that knowing a student's preference to sit on the right-side of the vehicle and to be accompanied by a favorite stuffed animal is just as important as understanding their physical requirements. These parent/guardian meetings allow us to cultivate relationships with the students and their families.

Driven By Compassion – Same Driver Every Day

Consistency – it's important to your students and it's important to ALC Schools. Our solution, which offers the same driver every day, enhances communication with parents and increases the comfort level of the students.

Because we not only match the vehicle, but also the driver with the individual needs of the student, drivers view their role as having made a commitment to serving "their" students each and every day. The result: students spend more days in the classroom, providing them and their families stability, familiarity, security and trust.

Real-Time Accountability

ALC is able to confirm, through the use of GPS, the time and locations of each of the district's students' trip events. Knowing where your students are, and when they arrived, provides an additional level of comfort and safety.

Matching Each Student With The Right Vehicle

ALC Schools' solution is uniquely customized to meet the specific needs of the district's students – today – and as their needs change. ALC ensures that each vehicle best matches the student's needs. Factors such as seating arrangements, wheelchair accessibility, additional equipment needs, and the possible need for a nurse/aide are all considered in identifying a vehicle for each student.

Our mission is to give students with special transportation needs an equal opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

