![UniteGPS — THE POWER OF KNOWING]

Weld County School District RE-1 increases efficiency and improves student safety with a modern approach to school bus routing and tracking from UniteGPS.

> " I would highly recommend UniteGPS. You aren't just another number to them. I was on the phone with them at least 3 times a week during set-up and at least once a week now. They are more than willing to help out in any way they can. And their price is very competitive for what they're offering. "

Wes Pike
Supervisor of Transportation
Weld County School District RE-1

Situation

Weld County School District RE-1 (WCSD) was planning school bus routes through manual routing software, Microsoft Streets and Trips. Students' ridership and location were also being tracked manually through Excel spreadsheets.

The Streets and Trips software was utilizing road information that had not been updated for close to 6 years and required routes be coordinated manually.

WCSD was able to track which students were to get on and off at each stop with spreadsheets, but that didn't help them to understand who was actually on a bus at any given time. Further, buses weren't being tracked via GPS, so they could not be located along routes. This posed safety concerns, especially for routes that passed through areas without phone service.

"When I took this job, I realized many of the existing procedures and processes were dated. Most decisions were based on opinions rather than best practice," said Wes Pike, Supervisor of Transportation at Weld County School District RE-1.

Solution

Weld County partnered with UniteGPS to modernize bus routing and tracking system with a turnkey software solution.

With UniteGPS, WCSD can now easily optimize routes based on real-time information, adding and removing stops easily and quickly. "With UniteGPS, now we can just plug a new address into a route and we will know where to go and roughly how long it will take," Pike said.
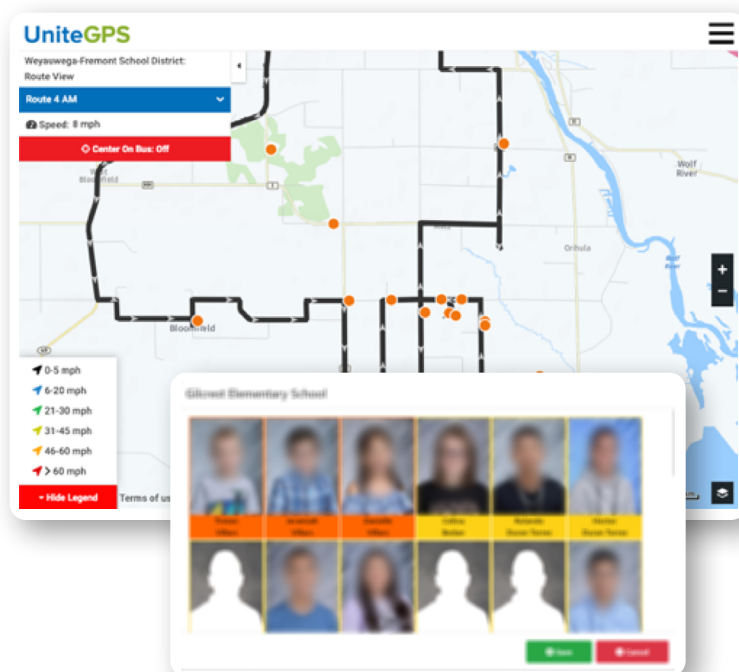
Drivers are also provided with a display showing turn by turn directions along with an image of each student they are to pick up at each stop. This reduces confusion, especially for substitute bus drivers on unfamiliar routes. Furthermore, each student who boards the bus is reliably identified as present or not.

Live-tracking of bus locations and which students are being picked up has also increased safety and efficiency for the district. "With UniteGPS, we track timing to know precisely when we are picking a student up, when we are dropping them off, and where the bus is at all times," Pike said. "We just didn't have that before, which made us feel uneasy."

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Results

● **Improved Student Safety—**Crosswalk K-12 Display System tracks which students are on each bus at all times.

● **Peace of Mind—**Live-tracking gives the district transparency into where each bus is at all times.

● **Improved Efficiency—**The district updates routes based on real-time information.

● **Flexibility to Serve District Needs—** "As we were implementing the system, if there was something that didn't work for us, I could talk with UniteGPS and they would adapt and change the program to fit what I needed," said Pike.

	Before UniteGPS	With UniteGPS
Students tracked	✘	✔
Buses tracked	✘	✔
Routes updated	✘	✔