



# A Cost-Neutral Solution to Standardize School Days

**Boulder Valley School District Now Has Balanced Days for Students, Educators, and Drivers.**



## The Challenge

Like many districts, Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) was trying to standardize school days for schools at K-8 levels in order to create a well-balanced day for students and staff. With 57 schools developing their own bell schedules, which were not equal across the district, students had anywhere from six to seven-and-a-half hours of learning each day.

Because of these non-standardized hours, high school buses were arriving nearly 30 minutes after school let out. With vocational schools having a later release time, there was a delay in picking up high school students on time.

Additionally, not all staff was provided with time for professional learning and collaboration. Some schools had time set aside for this crucial activity but some did not. Early outs were on different days of the week, if they existed at all, making it challenging to schedule buses and meet on-time performance goals.

## Our Approach

School Bus Logistics (SBL) and Prismatic Solutions, out of North Carolina, partnered to create a solution for BVSD. A leader in national research and trends in education, Prismatic provided research on trends that align bell times and lunch time minutes. SBL used this research to evaluate bus routes and propose uniform start and end times to be equal at all K-8 schools.

Together, SBL and Prismatic held monthly meetings with a 22-member committee made up of school staff and administrators known as the Ideal School Day Committee. Together, they were able to create a solution that satisfied stakeholders across the district.

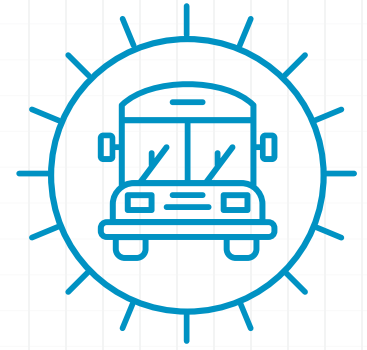
The team worked with vocational schools for an earlier release to free up buses picking up high school students giving them more time at home and a reliable pick-up time. A proposal was put in place for all students in grades K-8 to have a seven-hour school day. Teachers were scheduled for 90 minutes of professional learning one day a week that is consistent across all schools.

*"We came to SBL with long-term challenges around operations and equitable learning. They made a plan that included a bell time study that standardized school days and allowed for district-wide joint planning and professional development. On top of that, it was a cost-neutral plan that optimized our bus utilization."*



**Rob Price**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF  
OPERATIONAL SERVICES  
BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOULDER, COLORADO**

**CLIENT**

Boulder Valley School District

**LOCATION**

Colorado

**SCHOOL OVERVIEW**

The 500-square mile Boulder Valley School District consistently ranks among the top three of Colorado's large Front Range school districts—and often as the top district—as measured by state and national academic rankings.

**TOTAL ENROLLED**

30,880

**TOTAL BUS ROUTES**

AM: 193

PM: 178

**TOTAL SCHOOLS SERVICED**

57

**BUS YARDS**

3

---

### The Outcome

Boulder Valley School District was given a cost-neutral solution. This solution took into account all of the challenges they brought to the SBL and Prismatic team. In addition, they were provided with possible opportunities for route efficiencies.

---

### About School Bus Logistics

A business partner of the Colorado State Pupil Transportation Association with more than 30 years of combined routing software and operations experience, School Bus Logistics is a Denver-based business that provides consulting and support to school districts and bussing contract companies. By accurately and efficiently eliminating the challenges of pupil transportation, we can put money back into the hands of school districts and, ultimately, back into the communities they serve.

Create a

7 Hr  
Day

for K-8

Standardized

PLC  
TimeCost-  
Neutral  
Transportation  
Solution

CONTACT US TODAY TO OPTIMIZE ROUTES WHILE MEETING REQUIREMENTS.