



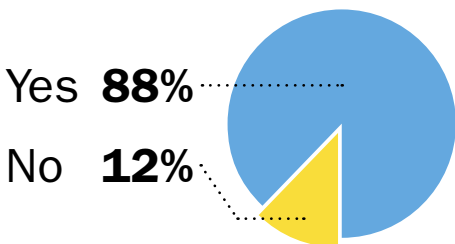
Photo courtesy Zonar

Child Reminders, Aides Common on Special-Needs Buses

Nearly three-fourths (71%) of operations surveyed have some or all of their special-needs buses equipped with a device to remind drivers to check for students after a run.

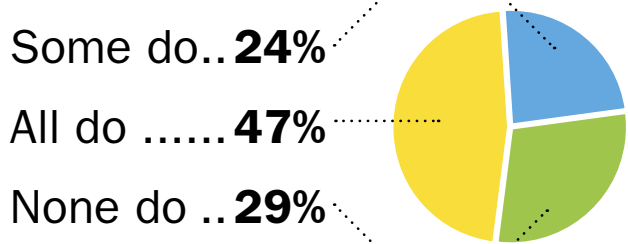
By Thomas McMahon, Executive Editor

Drivers given info on passengers' disabilities?



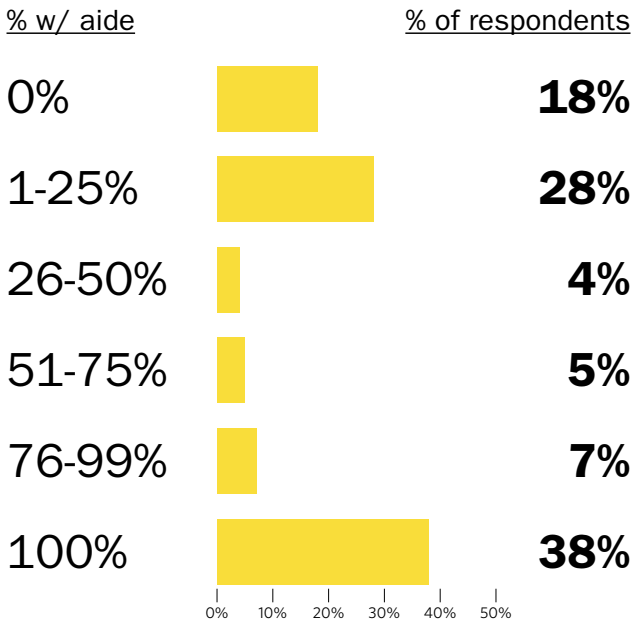
At a wide majority of the operations surveyed, school bus drivers are given information about the disabilities of the students they transport.

Do your special-needs buses have child-reminder devices?



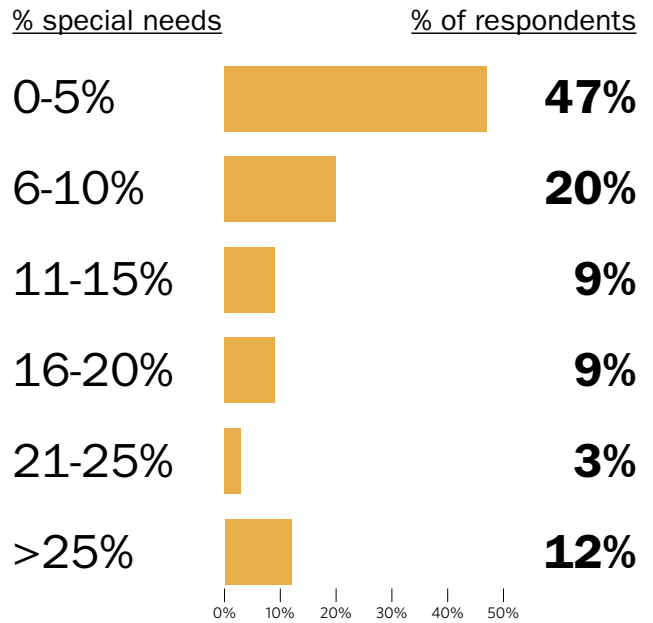
Nearly half (47%) of respondents said that all of their special-needs buses have an electronic or manual device to remind drivers to walk to the back to check for students after a run. In September, a special-needs student in Whittier, California, died after being left alone on his bus on a hot day.

Special-needs buses with aide on board



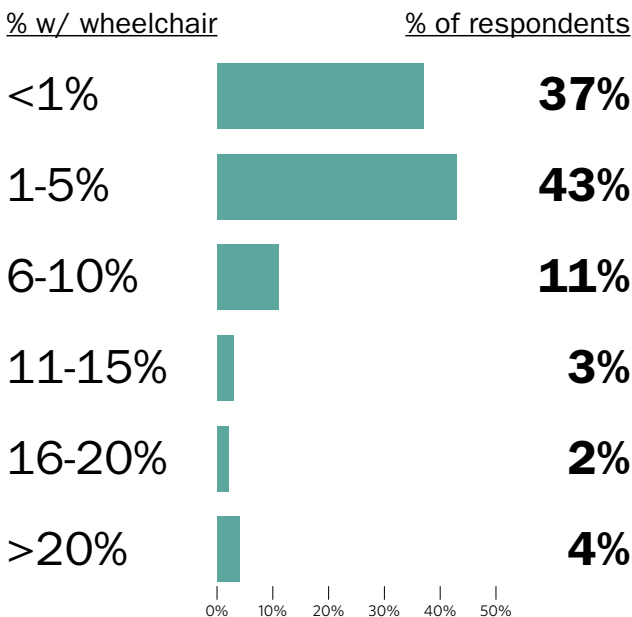
More than a third (38%) of respondents have an aide/attendant on all of their special-needs buses.

What percentage of your passengers have special needs?



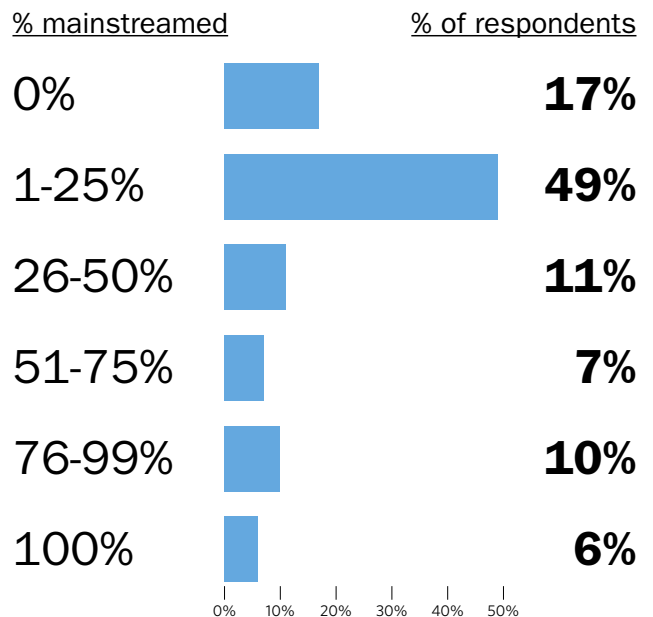
For nearly half (48%) of the operations surveyed, 5% or fewer of the students they transport have special needs. The average of respondents' answers was 15%.

What percentage of your special-needs passengers use a wheelchair?



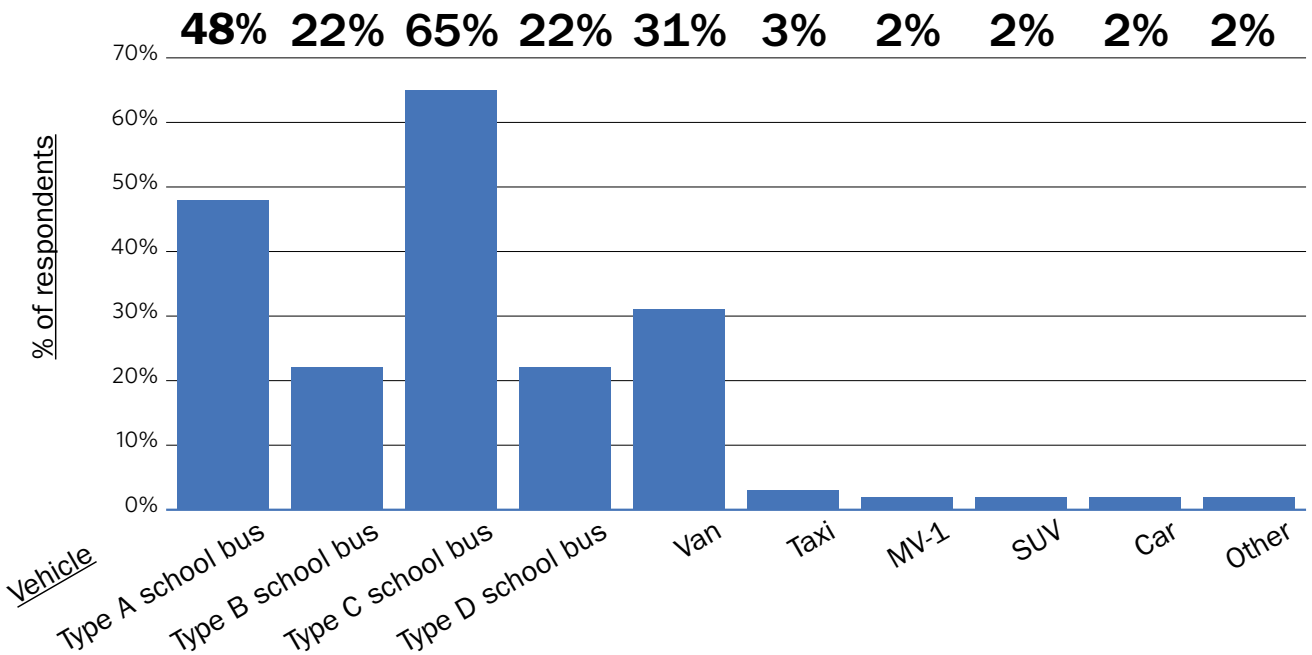
For four-fifths (80%) of the operations surveyed, 5% or fewer of their special-needs passengers use a wheelchair. The average of respondents' answers was 4%.

Special-needs passengers who are mainstreamed



Some special-needs passengers are mainstreamed, meaning that they ride on routes with general-education students.

Vehicles used for special-needs transportation



Respondents use many types of vehicles to transport special-needs students. The most widely cited vehicle is a Type C school bus.



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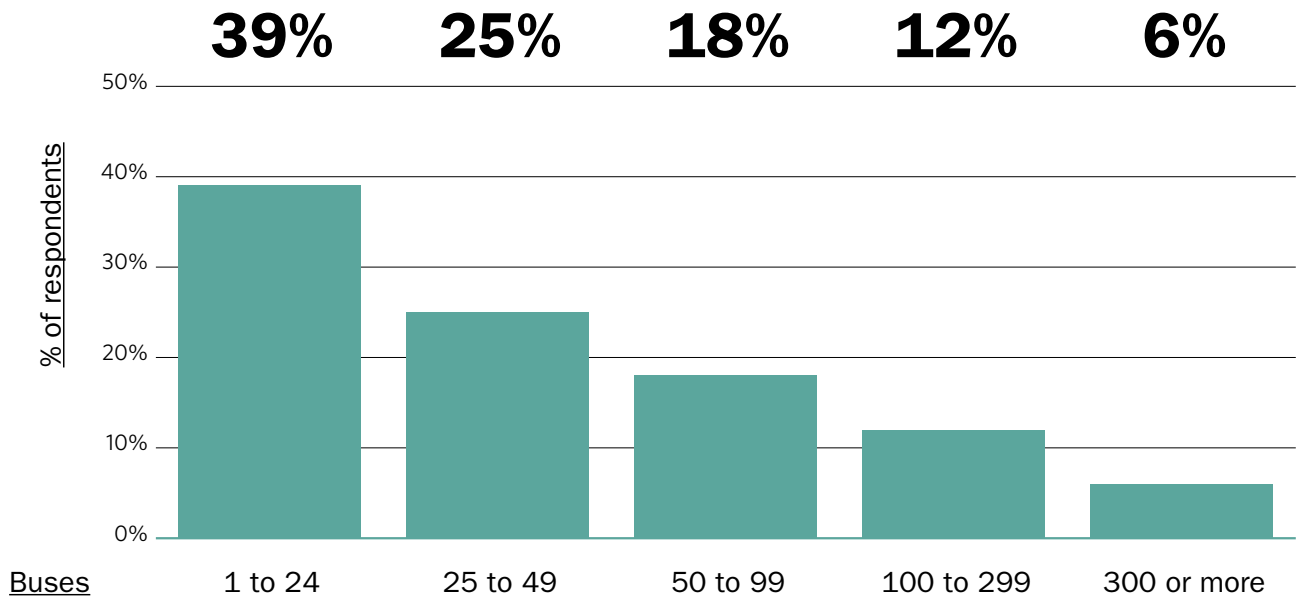
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Most respondents have small fleets



Nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) represent fleets of fewer than 50 school buses. For this survey, a questionnaire was emailed to managers at school district transportation departments and school bus contractors. We received 415 usable responses. Our thanks to everyone who participated.



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