



Russellville School District Modernizes Student Transportation with Bytecurve and Zonar

Digitized dispatch and payroll
processes save \$15,000/month and
boost operational efficiency

Overview

Russellville School District (RSD) in Arkansas embarked on a digital transformation of its student transportation system, replacing outdated, paper-based payroll and dispatch systems with a fully integrated solution powered by Bytecurve and Zonar. This transition has significantly improved payroll accuracy, reduced administrative burden, and created new opportunities for data-driven operations and future technology integrations.

Challenges

Before digitization, RSD's transportation department faced:

- Manual time tracking with frequent errors
- Labor-intensive payroll processes taking up to 15 days/month
- Inefficient communication with drivers

"All those 10 minutes here and 15 minutes there... really do add up," said King. **"It's wonderful peace of mind to know the drivers and admin staff are on the same page for timesheets."**

— CHRISTOPHER KING

- Inflexibility in managing over 250 weekly bus runs across 99 square miles

Director of Transportation Christopher King described the operation as “a lot of spreadsheets and a lot of time.”

Solution

Technology Implementation

- **GPS & Routing:** Installed Zonar GPS and tablets for real-time route monitoring
- **Payroll Modernization:** Adopted Bytecurve’s digital timekeeping and payroll platform
- **Rollout Strategy:** Ran dual systems during a transition phase (Jan–Mar 2024), moving to full digitization in April 2024

Training & Adoption

- Drivers were trained to use Bytecurve’s DriveOn mobile app
- Over 95% adoption rate due to user-friendly design and time-saving features

What’s Next

RSD is preparing to launch Transfinder’s Stop Finder app for parents, enhancing transparency and service quality with real-time student tracking.

Results

Operational Improvements

- **\$15,000** monthly labor cost savings (even after wage increases)
- **Payroll errors nearly eliminated**
- **Hours saved** per week in driver communications and payroll reconciliation

Data-Driven Decisions

- GPS + payroll integration allows **precise tracking** of trip durations vs. planned schedules
- Insights enable **route refinements** and real-time adjustments

Staff Benefits

- **Reduced administrative stress**
- **Improved morale** through clear and fair time tracking
- **Seamless customer support** from Bytecurve

“We’re continuing to invest and improve the way we operate to provide the best possible service to our community.”

— CHRISTOPHER KING,
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, RUSSELLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

About the District

Russellville School District serves 5,694 students across 11 schools with a student-teacher ratio of 14:1. The transportation department manages 65+ buses and over 250 weekly runs, ensuring safe and efficient student travel every day.