

Durham School Services Donates Bus to the West Jefferson Hills School District for Mobile Mental Health Services

Durham School Services Donates Bus to the West Jefferson Hills School District for an Innovative Mobile "Chill Room" for Mental Health Services

JEFFERSON HILLS, PA, USA, January 19, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Durham School Services \(DSS\)](#), a leader in student transportation, has donated a school bus to the West Jefferson Hills (WJH) School District to renovate into a mobile "Chill Room/Makerspace" for its students. The Chill Room will allow students to seek innovative ways to help manage stress, anxiety, and focus on mental health. The donated bus will be renovated and designed into the mobile Chill Room with help from Thomas Jefferson High School's technical education and graphic design students. It is slated to be completed during the 2023-2024 school year.



Durham School Services and West Jefferson Hills School District staff

The mobile "Chill Room" is an expansion of [Allegheny Health Network's \(AHN\) Chill Project](#), a program for schools that "uses mindfulness-based exercises to equip students, teachers, and parents with a common language and universal skills to identify, discuss, and react positively to stress." Through the Chill Project, participants have access to services such as counseling, support groups, school-based outpatient services, and more.

"We are excited for this unique opportunity to create a mobile "Chill Room/Makerspace" for our elementary school students and community, and thank Durham School Services for their extraordinary donation," said Dr. Janet Sardon, WJH School District Superintendent. "This bus will positively impact our students since it will provide them with a more accessible means to seek out support. The bus also is a great opportunity for Thomas Jefferson students to construct a welcoming and functional interior space and design a colorful and creative interior and exterior. We are fortunate to have a compassionate and supportive partner like Durham School Services who possesses such a strong commitment to the well-being of its students and community."



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Dr. Janet Sardon, WJH School District Superintendent

The donation to the West Jefferson Hills School District was made as part of Durham School Services’ company-wide Partners Beyond the Bus program, a continuous effort to serve students’ growing, diverse needs and increase the positive impact we make on their lives beyond school and their communities. These bus donations also help to repurpose retired, non-electric vehicles from DSS’ fleets, which further contributes to DSS’ transition to alternative fuel-powered and zero-emission buses. Durham School Services plans on transitioning to an all zero-emission fleet by 2035.

“We look forward to the transformation of the bus into an

innovative and mobile space for WJH students,” said Karen Kotar, West Jefferson Area General Manager. “We are delighted that this donation will give the students of the West Jefferson Hills School District an additional opportunity to receive the support they need when they are stressed or going through a difficult time. The Chill Project is an admirable endeavor, and we are proud to contribute to the project through our bus donation. We are eager to see how the students transform the bus and the difference it will make in the lives of the students and community.”

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[About Durham School Services:](#) As an industry-leading student transportation provider, Durham School Services is dedicated to the safety of our students and People, transporting more than *one million students daily and employing approximately 20,000 drivers across North America (*Pre-COVID Figures). For more than 100 years, we have been committed to Excellence and upholding our mission of getting students to school safely, on time, and ready to learn. Through this mission and a grassroots approach to our operations, Durham School Services has earned recognition as a trusted transportation provider among our Customers and the Communities we serve.

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