

## **School District's Responses to Village Board Concerns Cottage Grove Elementary School Bus Loop Project**

Our primary response to the "playground safety" concern is that the playground will no longer be in use during morning transit windows and we will open the doors to accept students starting with the staff time. We are moving to a "Direct Entry" model that fundamentally changes how students interact with the site.

Below are the specific responses to the questions raised:

### **1) How will the district monitor students during morning bus drop-off/crossing the loop?**

- Under the 26-27 schedule, students will no longer cross the loop to access the playground in the morning. Instead, they will transition directly from the bus into the building.
- 7:25 AM: Support staff arrive and are stationed at the loop.
- 7:30 AM: Doors open; students move immediately from transportation into the school to begin their "soft start" (breakfast and hanging up items in the classroom).
- Safety Win: By moving the arrival process indoors, we eliminate the risk of students playing near active transit paths.

### **2) Will the district supply more staff for monitoring?**

- Yes. **SEA/EA staff start time at 7:25 AM**, we are ensuring an "all-hands-on-deck" supervision presence five minutes before the first door opens. This ensures professional oversight is active during the entire duration of the bus drop-off window.

### **3) Why does the district feel this option is the best and safest option?**

- As noted in the previous meeting with village services, the loop is the preferred design for **emergency vehicle access (Fire/EMS)**. From a school safety standpoint, a loop allows for a continuous flow of traffic, preventing the congestion and "backing up" of large vehicles that occur with a cul-de-sac. When combined with our "Direct Entry" internal policy, the loop becomes a strictly controlled transit zone rather than a shared play/transit zone.

### **4) Why was this chosen over the cul-de-sac design? (Impact on fields vs safety)**

- While preserving the baseball fields is a benefit, the decision was primarily driven by **overall site safety and traffic flow**. A cul-de-sac requires buses to perform tighter maneuvers and creates a "dead end" that can hinder emergency responders. The loop provides the most efficient ingress and egress for both daily school operations and emergency services.