

Choose Confidently: A District Leader's Guide to Routing & GPS Solutions

How to evaluate and select an integrated routing and GPS solution

Choosing the right transportation solution comes down to knowing what to look for — and knowing what to ask. This guide gives you a clear framework for evaluating and comparing modern, integrated routing and GPS solutions so you can make a confident and informed decision.

And if you're considering making a switch, spring is the time to act — districts that commit now have a full summer to implement, train, and be ready to go before the first bell of the new school year.

Features

Questions to Ask

Routing & Optimization

- Automated route building and optimization
- Multi-stop and multi-tier routing (e.g., elementary, middle, high school bell times)
- What-if scenario planning
- Calendar-based scheduling for students with complex schedules
- Ridership/load balancing

- How does your system handle multiple bell times and school tiers in the same district?
- Can you run what-if scenarios before committing to route changes?
- How does your system handle students with complex schedules?
- How does the system handle mid-year changes such as new students, address changes, or boundary shifts?

GPS & Fleet Tracking

- Bus location, movement status, and route progress
- Location tracking and reporting
- Vehicle diagnostics
- Integration with routing software

- Is your GPS solution fully integrated with your routing platform?
- If it's a third-party integration, who's responsible when there's a problem?
- How does real-time GPS data feed back into routing decisions?

Ease of Use & Implementation

- Setup and onboarding timeline
- Training and support included
- Intuitive, user-friendly interface
- Cloud-based vs. on-premise

- What does a typical implementation timeline look like from contract signing to go-live?
- Who manages the implementation — your team or a third party?
- What does training look like, and who on our team needs to be involved?

Parent & Community Communication

- Parent-facing app
- Real-time bus arrival notifications
- Stop change alerts

- If your routing and GPS are separate systems, how does that affect the accuracy of what parents see in the app?
- How quickly are parents notified of route changes, delays, or cancellations?

Reporting & Compliance

- Ridership and mileage reporting
- Actionable KPI and history reports
- Audit trail and data export options

- Can routing and GPS data be combined into a single report, or do those live in separate systems?
- If we're audited, how does your system help us respond quickly and accurately?

Cost & Value

- Pricing model (per bus, per student, flat fee)
- Lack of hidden costs (unlimited users, free map updates, unlimited training)
- ROI indicators (fuel savings, etc.)

- On what criteria is pricing based — and how does that scale as we grow?
- What's included in the base price, and what costs extra?
- What does the contract term look like?

Support & Partnership

- Comprehensive onboarding
- Dedicated customer success manager
- Multiple support channels (test, phone, email, etc.)
- 24/7 knowledge base for self-help
- Software update frequency

- Who do we call when something goes wrong at 6 a.m. on a school day?
- What is your average response time for critical support issues?
- What communication options do I have for Support?
- How are software updates and new features rolled out, and is there any downtime involved?

Interested in exploring how EZRouting checks these boxes and a whole lot more? [Request a discovery call](#) so you can get your district up-and-running in time for the 2026-27 school year.