



April 2, 2026

Superintendent Jeremy Batchelor  
Youngstown City School District  
20 West Wood Street  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

Dear Superintendent Batchelor:

I am writing to express our profound disappointment and escalating concern regarding the ongoing and unacceptable behavior of students on our buses, at the transit station, and throughout the downtown area.

This is not a new issue. We have repeatedly requested partnership, resources, and accountability from the district to help manage student conduct, identify those responsible for repeated disruptions, and—most importantly—ensure that students are getting home safely. Despite these repeated appeals, the district has failed to meet this moment with the urgency or responsibility it demands.

Let us be clear: we are no longer asking—we are requesting action. The current level of engagement is not sufficient.

In contrast, multiple stakeholders in this community have stepped forward. WRTA has invested in additional security personnel and hired a dedicated security supervisor. The Youngstown Police Department has deployed resources. Youngstown State University Police Department has deployed resources. Community charter schools are sending administrators to assist. These actions reflect a shared recognition that the situation demands attention and accountability.

We were particularly troubled by the recent statement reported in *The Vindicator* asserting that this issue “falls outside the geographical and operational boundaries of our educational authority.” This position signals an unwillingness to take ownership of a situation that directly involves students and requires coordinated responsibility from all stakeholders. Everyone is contributing to a solution—except the Youngstown City School District.

We once again demand immediate, visible, and sustained action from the district. This must include, at a minimum:

- Deployment of school resource officers or district security personnel at key transit locations
- Assignment of district administrators during peak dismissal times
- Active collaboration with our team to identify and address repeat offenders
- Clear communication with students and families regarding behavioral expectations and consequences

The safety of these students—and our entire community—is at stake. Continued inaction is not an option.

We expect a prompt response outlining the specific steps the district will take to address this issue immediately.

Sincerely,



Dean J. Harris  
Chief Executive Officer  
Western Reserve Transit Authority

CC:

Youngstown City School District Board Members  
YCSD Chief of Staff Robert Kearns  
Youngstown Mayor Derrick McDowell  
Youngstown Chief of Police Sharon Cole  
Youngstown State University Chief of Police Shawn Varso  
Mahoning County Sheriff Jerry Green  
Mahoning County Commissioners