



Patrick Byrnes
Lead Mechanic

Support Staff Spotlight

NAME: Southeast Washington Transportation Cooperative

Bus Mechanics: Patrick Byrnes, Wes Polley, Bret McKinney, Edward Czyhold

Q. Who do you serve?

A. We offer bus maintenance and repair service to Walla Walla Public Schools and Prescott and Dixie School Districts. WWPS has 41 buses and 15 vans. Prescott has nine buses while Dixie has six. We also service all the lawn mowers, vans, forklifts, tractors and specialty equipment for Walla Walla Public Schools.

Q. Why is this cooperative a benefit to these partner districts?

A. We save them a lot of money and we offer a comprehensive approach to maintenance. We save these districts approximately 50 percent on parts and labor compared to having this work done somewhere else. We do all types of troubleshooting and have all the diagnostic testing tools we need to do the job. If there is something wrong, we identify it and fix it. A well serviced fleet saves money over time.

Q. What standards do you meet?

A. We maintain all of our fleet to meet Washington State Patrol standards. Our vehicles can be inspected at any time and will be expected to pass. Our mechanics are very thorough and talented. We can repair and service all types of vehicles and equipment.

Q. How has this new facility supported your operations?

A. We want to thank the community for this amazing facility. It is model for other district's to follow. We have the space, layout and equipment to be efficient and cost effective. School buses are expensive. We have buses that are 18 years old with more than 200,000 miles. We can get in them at anytime and drive them anywhere we want to go. The more we can maintain them, the longer we can keep them operational. The drivers are the first line of defense. They report issues and we fix them. It's a team effort.

Over 

NOTES: The Southeast Washington Transportation Cooperative saves partner districts approximately 50 percent on bus maintenance and repair service.

Highlights Bus Mechanics



(L) Ed Czyhold repairs a bus tire. The cooperative offers its own tire repair and purchasing service.



The district's four mechanics offer comprehensive repair and maintenance service for buses, vans and speciality equipment.



Brett McKinney repairs a sod cutter.