



**The Choice Bus** takes students through a 25-minute interactive presentation designed to show the relevancy of education to career choices and lifetime earning potential. Midway through the presentation, a full scale replica of a prison cell is revealed. It's a powerful demonstration of how education—and the lack of education—is connected to making good or bad choices. During the presentation, **The Choice Bus** staff leads students in discussions about the importance of education, choosing friends wisely, avoiding gangs, being respectful to others and having a career interest. Students learn several eye-opening facts about education:

- High school graduates earn more than high school dropouts
- College graduates earn a million dollars more over their lifetime than high school dropouts
- High school dropouts are more likely to spend time in prison than high school graduates
- 75% of prisoners are high school dropouts

The target grades are 6-10 and during a typical school day, approximately 350 students can experience **The Choice Bus**. Parents are encouraged to experience **The Choice Bus** with their children whenever possible. **The Choice Bus** message is powerful: a good education leads to a lifetime of opportunities and a lack of education will likely lead to a lifetime of despair and hardship.

## The Choice Bus Objectives

- 1) For students to understand the link between dropping out of school and the likelihood of spending time in prison
- 2) To stimulate discussions about the importance of making good choices and the potential consequences of making bad choices
- 3) To encourage students to commit to finishing high school and to think about career choices
- 4) To demonstrate the relevance of education to earning potential on an annual and lifetime basis
- 5) Open students' eyes to the opportunities that await those with an education

For more information or to book **The Choice Bus** visit [mattiestewart.org](http://mattiestewart.org) and follow us on [facebook.com/mattiestewart](https://www.facebook.com/mattiestewart)



THE  
MATTIE C. STEWART  
FOUNDATION

## Choice Bus Visit Procedures

In order to provide the most effective **Choice Bus** experience there are several important elements required of the host school/organization. **PLEASE** read all of the information below carefully.

### Location of Choice Bus

- **The Choice Bus** needs to be located in a student accessible area of the school with adequate protection in case of inclement weather and easy access to adult restrooms for **The Choice Bus** staff.
- The host school will need to provide to The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation (MCSF) the street address of the school(s) **The Choice Bus** will be visiting. Local driving directions would be helpful, but **The Choice Bus** is equipped with a GPS.

### The Choice Bus Experience

**The Choice Bus** presentation lasts approximately 20-25 minutes and consists of a four part sequence:

- 1) The viewing of a short movie called “The Choice Is Yours”
- 2) The revealing of **The Choice Bus** secret – the life-size replica of a jail cell
- 3) Student tour of the jail cell
- 4) A short Q&A followed by the distribution of student pledge cards (for students to sign and turn in to their teacher). You can view the pledge card and **Choice Bus** video on the Foundation website ([www.mattiestewart.org](http://www.mattiestewart.org))

### Scheduling Student Groups (groups of no more than 24 students per presentation)

- During a typical school day, approximately 350 students can experience **The Choice Bus**.
- **The Choice Bus** has 12 seats and can accommodate up to 24 students per presentation (two (2) students per seat). One to three adults can stand in the back.
- A final schedule showing the student schedule for **The Choice Bus** **must** be emailed or faxed to the MCSF at least one week prior to **The Choice Bus** visit (fax: 205-212-6418) or [debi@mattiestewart.org](mailto:debi@mattiestewart.org). We suggest scheduling groups of 24 students every 25 minutes.
- When developing your student schedule, please allow for a 45-minute lunch break for **The Choice Bus** staff.
- It is always helpful when a teacher/representative with an accessible radio is stationed with **The Choice Bus** staff during the visit. This allows for easy communication with administration and ensures the schedule runs smoothly throughout the visit.

### Teacher/Adult Supervision

At least **one** adult teacher/chaperone **must** be on **The Choice Bus** with each group of students (ideally two adults). **The Choice Bus** staff will not permit student groups to board the bus unless accompanied by a teacher/adult chaperone. Responsibilities of adult chaperones include:

- Ensure all students remain quiet and respectful during the presentation
- Address any unruly behavior of students (rare, but does occur on occasion)
- Maintain order while students are getting on and off **The Choice Bus**

## Student/Community Leadership & Media Participation

We encourage schools to make the most of **The Choice Bus** visit and welcome student participation from yearbook staff, school newspaper, student broadcast network, technology groups (we use Facebook to make updates on all **Choice Bus** visits) and any other student/teacher led groups, clubs, etc. Also, consider having students participate in the planning and on-site management of **The Choice Bus** visit.

We encourage you to invite your SRO's, community leaders and dignitaries to visit **The Choice Bus** to make them aware of your efforts to increase the graduation rate.

Reaching out to the media and inviting them to cover **The Choice Bus** is also encouraged. Please make sure your Public Relations Officer is aware of **The Choice Bus** visit and encourage them to contact the MCSF staff to get more information on publicizing **The Choice Bus** visit.

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Office: (205) 212-6400 · Fax: (205) 212-6418 · [www.mattiestewart.org](http://www.mattiestewart.org)



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<https://www.facebook.com/mattiestewart>

## CHOICE BUS STUDENT SCHEDULE

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:** use this form to complete the student schedule for your Choice Bus visit. Type directly onto this form or print a copy to manually input your data. Once completed, save this document and name it using your school name and the date of the Choice Bus visit (i.e. WilsonMS10-11-12). Then email the saved file to [debi@mattiestewart.org](mailto:debi@mattiestewart.org). Please remember that student groups cannot be larger than 24 students and should be scheduled every 25 minutes (*see sample below*). Also, please allow a 45-minute lunch break for the Choice Bus staff; and be sure that each student group has at least one adult chaperone/teacher. If you need assistance please call Debi at 205-212-6400. You may fax the schedule to 205-212-6418 if you prefer.

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Time	Grade(s)	# of Students per group (max 24)	Teacher/Chaperone	Notes
1/01/2001	8:00am—8:25am	6 <sup>th</sup>	24	Ms. Paul	10 special needs
	8:25am—8:50am	7 <sup>th</sup>	22	Mr. Hardy	

Total Students: \_\_\_\_\_