

## Long bus ride forces Kendall from Urban-Suburban plan

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The Urban-Suburban program is losing its newest and most distant district this year, as the Kendall Central School District is dropping out due to transportation problems.

It is 28 miles from Kendall Junior/Senior High School to the nearest point in the Rochester City School District. Two city students made that trip last year, spending nearly an hour on the bus each way, Kendall Superintendent Julie Christensen said.

The students rode on the same bus as Urban-Suburban students going to Brockport, Hilton or Spencerport, other suburban districts in northwestern Monroe County, according to Christensen. The city school district is only required, however, to take students up to 15 miles outside its borders.

This year, Christensen said, Rochester informed Kendall it no longer would go the extra distance to take the two students; some Brockport Urban-Suburban students already are taken a few extra miles. Kendall tried to arrange a relay with Brockport, Hilton or Spencerport, but couldn't align its bus runs to make it work.

The city school district on Tuesday couldn't confirm the Kendall arrangement for last year or this year.

The two children participated in sports, chorus and band, and their parents often went to Kendall for school activities, Christensen said. Another four Rochester students had been slated to go to Kendall this year.

"We really enjoyed our students — they were very much a part of our community," Christensen said. "We wish them well, and we know they'll be successful."

Kendall was by far the participating district farthest from Rochester; the next most distant is Brockport, at 19 miles. While the Rochester students' commute was arduous by city standards, long bus rides are the norm in rural districts like Kendall, which covers 89 square miles.

Kendall was one of five districts to join Urban-Suburban in 2015. Webster is beginning this year, and Rush-Henrietta is considering joining in 2017-18.

The program has also been modified to allow white city students to enroll, and to provide some Suburban-Urban opportunities for children to study at select city schools.

Kendall also becomes the first district ever to withdraw from the program, but not from dissatisfaction. Christensen said the district would like to participate again in the future if it can resolve the transportation issue.

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