

District	Software and Information
OSBA	<p>The three largest routing companies in use within Ohio school districts are <u>Versatrans</u>, <u>Edulog</u>, and <u>Transfinder</u>. There are other smaller companies, including bus stops that some districts are using.</p> <p>For 900 students you could use most any product, as long as their support is dependable and accessible when you need it.</p> <p>The best part of this is that within the last 10 years the cost for this software has dropped significantly. In most cases, pricing is based on your ADM. You should be able to purchase software including training and installation for a cost around 10,000 for the size of your district. All of the companies have an annual support fee, which should include access to their help desk and software upgrades.</p> <p>5 years ago I would have recommended against routing software purchase for a district of your size. With the new pricing I do recommend that you consider the acquisition of one of these products. <u>The important key to remember is that they do not do the routing for you, it still takes a competent operator to schedule the buses and assign students.</u> The advantage of the software is that it makes the process much easier and more comprehensive with regard to <u>recordkeeping and route sheet generation.</u></p> <p>I recommend that you ask all three for demonstrations and quotes, and ask them for user lists that are close to you so that you can get referrals.</p> <p>If you have additional question, please feel free to contact me at OSBA's offices in Columbus.</p> <p>Pete Japikse Senior Transportation Consultant Ohio School Boards Association</p>
Liberty Center	<u>Bus Stops</u> , cost per year around 600.00, great tech support, unknown initial cost
Tuslaw	Versa Trans
Heath City	Transfinder *
Salem City	Transfinder, Cost \$10000
Western Reserve	Western Reserve uses Edulog. It is more complex than Versatrans but we chose it because they have two products. One is the routing software and one is GPS management software. The two system talk to each other and provide a wealth of information. Also Edulog is partnered with Zonar. So we purchased the GPS black boxes and the two programs from Edulog. After one

	comes when you want to purchase additional services.  I'm not sure if you use PowerSchool as your student database program, but we do and they both seem to "talk well" together.
<u>Batavia/Williamsburg</u>	These districts share services. They use Versatrans. Enrollment of 2200 and initial cost of \$30000 with \$5000 annually for support.
Liberty Benton	Versatrans, Initial cost \$13865 with \$1000 for training, second yearly fee of \$3525
Hillsboro City	Transfinder
South-Central	Versatrans; 880 enrollment, \$8000 for year one and \$2000-3000 per year after that, EVERYTHING will depend on how good your student information is. ie: St Rt 224 or US Highway 224 as a student address will cause you BIG problems. Same as Senior Dr or Sr. Dr will do the same.
Washington Local	Edulog for routing and Fleetpro for fleet maintenance. \$3400 per year for support/license
Liberty-Union Thurston	We are using Bus Master software. It contains a student record, fleet record, driver record, trip record, maintenance record, and fuel record. I believe the last update was \$900.00. Bus Master is a simple, friendly user program. We are not a large district and didn't need all the extras as many other programs have. Bus Master covers everything that I want to keep track of, students, fleet, driver, trip, maintenance and fuel. There are additional features, but we didn't need it all. It works with Microsoft MapPoint (for the routing) which must be installed before installing <u>Bus Master</u> . It has many reports that you can run in excel or word. We do not have in-house maintenance so I don't need to track inventory but that is available in Bus Master. You can go on-line and look at their demo or call and they will send you a demo. Their phone number is 913-681-270 and speak to Linda. The web is <a href="http://www.busmaster.net">http://www.busmaster.net</a> .
Avon Local	VersaTrans: \$4887 annually
Van Buren	No routing software
Bryan City	Just switched to Transfinder, so far pleased – <u>communicates with Power School</u> , Several years ago they used Edulog which is great but more than needed
Versailles	Versatrans: Yearly maintenance \$2700
Buckeye Central	Transfinder
North Union	Transfinder: \$12000 to get started and \$2500 per year
Madison-Plains	Transfinder
Lincolnview Local	Map My Ride, \$100 cost
Bellevue	Versatrans: used for five years and use the routing, the Fleet Vision, Trip Tracker. Annual cost approx. \$4700 and initial approx. \$6000
Ontario	Transfinder: Initial cost \$12900 and yearly fee is \$3700. Enrollment of 2014.

	<p>year we are still working out the kinks but are AMAZED with the products. I don't remember the exact cost but somewhere between 5 and 10 thousand dollars each. This also included the highest level of support so that if we want to make route changes and don't have the time, we email Edulog and they make the changes for us. Since we are just under 1200 students, we don't have a transportation supervisor other than myself and this has taken a great burden off of me and my secretary.</p> <p>It also greatly assists in the phone calls about speeding buses, missed stops, missed roads, etc. We simply pull up the GPS software and hit the playback. It answers all questions. Of the last four calls we received, it was obvious the callers misrepresented what actually occurred. Our drivers were in the right.</p>
Champion Local Schools	Versatrans
Springfield Local	<p>Versatrans, then switched to Transfinder: Our biggest problem with Versatrans was the map and the inability to accurately locate students. We could have upgraded the map but the cost related to the upgrade prompted us to start shopping. Additionally, with Versatrans bus stop locations were set points on the map, with Transfinder bus stops are specific to the route rather than the map. As of now my biggest issue with Transfinder is mid-day runs; runs that pick and drop off our pre-schooler students. The software does not support this process. Cost in 2005 for Versatrans was \$18000. Transfinder 9200 to 13000 pending on options.</p>
St. Marys City Schools	Bustops by Microanalytics using since 1995, cost approx. \$10000
Licking Heights	Versatrans, initial cost plus yearly fee of \$4300
Olmsted Falls	VersaTrans, used for six years, \$6000-7000 per year
Elmwood	Bustops, cost \$10000 in 2004
Evergreen Local	<p>We began using bus routing software, full go, just last year (before that, we did our routing by hand!). Before purchasing, we researched several different vendors and, for us, we liked the Versatran platform (Tyler Technologies). Our District, which is Evergreen Local (westside of Toledo), is a district of about 1250 students and almost 1000 of our students ride bus. <u>If you are interested in taking a look at Versatran or in talking with our transportation department, please call 419-644-1375 and ask for Ron Whitehead.</u> Ron is our Maintenance Coordinator and he can tell you the pros and cons of using the Versatran web-based platform (I believe our cost is \$5495 per year, which includes our cost for training, software, updates, server space, etc.): We haven't purchased all of the bells and whistles, but you can always add on on different components (e.g., GPS tracking of buses) if the time</p>