

MIT's Optimization Algorithm Cuts Boston Public Schools' Bus Costs by \$5 Million

AI in Education · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

MIT Operations Research Center PhD students won Boston Public Schools' 2016 routing challenge; their algorithm cut 50 buses (about 8% of the fleet), saved up to \$5M a year, and was later peer-reviewed in the journal *Interfaces* (2020).

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	0/3
Equity & inclusion	0/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	2/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	0/3
Scalability & sustainability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[Boston Public Schools / MIT Operations Research Center](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[MIT Sloan: Creating better bus routes with algorithms](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[Route Fifty: How One City Saved \\$5 Million by Routing School Buses with an Algorithm](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

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