

## School Bus Crash Details Released

(KNZA)--Additional details have been released following a Wednesday morning Brown County school bus crash that sent more than twenty students to local hospitals.

The bus, carrying students from Hiawatha USD 415, ran off the road and rolled around 7:40.

It happened near the intersection of U.S. Highway 73 and 170th Road about 6 1/2 miles south of Hiawatha.

The Kansas Highway Patrol says the bus driver, 74-year-old Hiawatha resident Lawrence Gnagi, was eastbound on 170th Road when for unknown reasons he failed to stop at the stop sign for U.S. 73. Gnagi attempted to turn north onto U.S. 73. The bus left the roadway to the right and overturned once, coming to rest on its wheels.

Twenty-two students aboard the bus, ranging in age from 5 to 17, along with Gnagi were taken to both the Horton and Hiawatha Community Hospitals with non-life threatening injuries.

USD 415 Superintendent Dr. Penny Hargrove was on the scene and tells MSC News the bus was fully loaded at the time of the wreck. "It was a full load. We did send 22 between the two hospitals. We had some parents come by who happened to be driving in the area, and after their children were checked out by the ambulance, they took some of them, and we took a few to school. So the exact number [on board the bus] is not for sure, but we believe it's between 37 and 38. And again, those were minor injuries. We were very blessed this morning."

All but one student was treated and released.

The specific cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Many Signals Communications