



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

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DATE: November 13, 2024
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Tom Bramley, Director of Transportation
Jude Gritter, Assistant Director of Transportation
Claire Kowalczyk, EdD, Administrator on Special Assignment
RE: *Approval of Bid Award #25-004 Emergency Transportation Services for
Unassigned Bus Routes*

Background

At the August 14, 2024, Board of Education meeting, we requested approval for a contract to hire up to 29 emergency supplemental drivers to cover unassigned bus routes, in accordance with Section 10-20.21 of the School Code, for a 90-day period. At that time, the district had 90 active drivers, which was insufficient to cover all routes and address driver absences. Due to this shortage, the district had no choice but to seek supplemental drivers through a bidding process. Ensuring safe and timely transportation for students remains the district's top priority. However, despite requesting up to 29 drivers, we typically receive only 13–15 drivers daily from the private transportation companies, which are facing the same driver shortages as District 15 and the nation as a whole. The current contract will expire on December 5, 2024.

As of November 7, 2024, the district has 82 active drivers and 4 candidates in training, along with 3 part-time on-call drivers. To cover the routes in our largest tier (Tier 2), we require 98 drivers, leaving us short 16 drivers. In addition, we need extra drivers to cover the 10–15 drivers who call in sick daily. Due to the ongoing nationwide driver shortage, the district is once again seeking supplemental drivers through a new bidding process.

Bids Obtained

On October 21, 2024, the district solicited bids (BID #25-004) from private transportation companies to provide up to 29 bus drivers to cover unassigned routes from December 6, 2024, to March 6, 2025. All bids were due by November 1, 2024, at 11:30 p.m. CST.

The district received bids from four companies. The most competitive bid came from First Student at \$400 per day per driver for 10 drivers. The next best bid was from Zoom Elite at \$435

per day for a maximum of 6 drivers, followed by Grand Prairie Transit at \$460 per day for 4 drivers.

Although we initially sought up to 29 drivers, we are recommending that the Board of Education approve contracts with First Student, Zoom Elite, and Grand Prairie Transit for a total of 20 drivers.

Company	Number of Drivers Bidder Can Provide	Daily Rate per Driver
First Student	10	\$ 400
Zoom Elite	6	\$ 435
Grand Prairie Transit	4	\$460
Yellow Bus Group	15	\$580

Recommended Action:

A motion to approve the First Student Transportation bid for up to 10 drivers, Zoom Elite bid for up to 6 drivers, and Grand Prairie Transit for 4 drivers, the Agreement for Unassigned School Bus Routes, as presented.