



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

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DATE: March 12, 2025
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Tom Bramley, Director of Transportation
Jude Gritter, Assistant Director of Transportation
Shari Lazor Ed.D., Associate Superintendent
RE: *Approval of Bid Award #25-020 Emergency Transportation Services for
Unassigned Bus Routes*

Background

At the November 13, 2024, Board of Education meeting, we requested approval for a contract to hire up to 20 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 82 active drivers, four candidates in training, and three part-time on-call drivers. To cover the routes in our largest tier (Tier 2), we required 98 drivers, leaving us 16 drivers short. 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.

As of March 12, 2025, the district has 87 active drivers, five candidates in training, and three part-time on-call drivers. The transportation department was able to combine a few routes on Tier 2 (our largest tier) which now requires 95 drivers. We are currently eight drivers short to cover all assigned routes. Additionally, we have nine sub route sets that remain unfilled. On a daily basis, we have 10 - 15 drivers out, requiring additional coverage. Due to the ongoing nationwide driver shortage, the district is once again seeking supplemental drivers through a new bidding process.

Bids Obtained

On Monday, February 17th, 2025, the district solicited bids (BID #25-020) from private transportation companies to provide up to 29 bus drivers to cover unassigned routes from March 13, 2025, to June 12, 2025. All bids were due by February 28th, 2025, at 11:30 p.m. CST.

The district received bids from three companies. The most competitive bid came from First Student at \$400 per day per driver for 10 drivers. The second bid was from Zoom Elite at \$425

per day per driver for up to 8 drivers. The last bid was from Grand Prairie Transit for up to 15 drivers at \$540 per day for the first 5 drivers and \$590 per day for the remaining 10 drivers.

We recommend that the Board of Education approve contracts with First Student and Zoom Elite for a total of 18 drivers.

Company	Number of Drivers Bidder Can Provide	Daily Rate per Driver
First Student	10	\$ 400
Zoom Elite	8	\$425
Grand Prairie Transit	15	\$540 for the first 5, and \$590 for the remaining 10

Recommended Action:

A motion to approve the First Student Transportation bid for up to 10 drivers and Zoom Elite for up to 8 drivers, in accordance with the Agreement for Unassigned School Bus Routes, as presented.

