



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

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DATE: August 14, 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 #25-001 Emergency Transportation Services for
Unassigned Bus Routes*

Background

In December 2023, the Board of Education approved a 90-day contract with First Student Transportation Company in order to hire up to 8 supplemental drivers to cover our unassigned routes. That contract expired on March 15, 2024. In accordance with Section 10-20.21 of the School Code, the District solicited bids in February from private transportation companies to cover the unassigned routes that we had at that time to cover thru the end of the 23-24 school year

The current bid for supplemental drivers is for 90 days which will end on November 5, 2024. Unfortunately, we continue to experience a driver shortage. Therefore, the District has no choice but to go out to bid for supplemental drivers to cover our unassigned routes. The District's priority is to transport our students to and from school safely and in a timely manner.

As of August 7, we have a total of 90 active drivers, 1 candidate in training, 5 sent for written testing, 3 sent to complete fingerprinting and physicals, and 1 upcoming interview for potential candidate. In addition to being 15 drivers short to cover our daily routes, we have between 10 - 20% of our drivers call in sick daily. Even with the supplemental drivers that we contracted for at the end of last school year with regular driver absences, we continue to have late routes daily. To be fully staffed, we need 10 - 15% additional drivers to cover for absences. We are asking for UP TO 29 drivers to ensure we are fully staffed. The drivers we have in training and when they will be licensed to drive and any resignations and/or retirements that may be submitted before the start of school.

Bids Obtained

Therefore, on July 25, 2024, the District solicited bids (BID #25-001), in accordance with Section 10-20.21 of the School Code, from private transportation companies to provide up to twenty nine bus drivers to cover unassigned routes we currently have at this time. All bids were due on August 5, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. CST.

We received bids from two companies. Zoom Elite was the most competitive bid at \$250/day for a maximum of 3 drivers. The next competitive bid was from First Student at \$400/day/driver.

Company	Number of Drivers Bidder Can Provide	Daily Rate per Driver
First Student	Up to 26	\$ 400
Zoom Elite	Up to 3	\$ 250

Recommended Action: A motion to approve the First Student Transportation bid for up to 26 drivers and Zoom Elite bid for up to 3 drivers the Agreement for Unassigned School Bus Routes, as presented.