



INSPIRE · INNOVATE · ENGAGE

NORTH SHORE

SCHOOL DISTRICT 112

Date: May 20, 2025

To: Dr. Michael Lubelfeld, Superintendent of Schools
Members of the Board of Education

From: Jeremy Davis, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO

Subject: Approve Bid Award for Special Education Transportation - First Student

Policy Alignment: 4:60 Purchases and Contracts

Disposition: Action

Executive Summary:

On Tuesday, April 15, 2025, the District opened bids for special education transportation services for the upcoming school year. Since that time, we have evaluated the proposals, including a detailed analysis of pricing structures and a review of vendor references.

Five vendors submitted proposals. The Year 1 projected costs are summarized in the chart below:

2025-2026	First Student	Safeway	Topline	Yellow Bus Group of America	214 Enterprises
Costs	\$1,328,409	\$1,239,990	\$3,338,632	\$3,528,832	\$3,433,672

As shown, Safeway and First Student submitted the two lowest bids. However, Illinois law does not require school districts to award student transportation contracts to the lowest bidder. Instead, the law allows us to consider the safety and efficient transportation of students, as well as other criteria outlined in the bid specifications, before making a recommendation.

District 112 has prior experience with both First Student and Safeway. Historically, First Student has demonstrated more consistent performance. In fact, during a previous bid cycle for special education transportation, Safeway was awarded the contract. After one year of service, however, the District chose to reduce Safeway's routes and reassign a portion of them to our regular transportation provider, First Student, due to performance concerns.

For these reasons, and after carefully checking references, the District is deciding to recommend First Student and its subcontractor, First Alt, for this award. The annual difference is less than \$100,000 per year, and First Student has been the superior provider in our experience.

I will note that First Alt often will use vans, but may use sedans or other acceptable modes of transportation for students. All of First Alt's vehicles are inspected and contain a sticker notifying anyone that this is a First Alt vehicle. Additionally, we have spoken with school districts that utilize First Alt, and their recommendations were good.

Overall, we feel confident recommending First Student/First Alt for our special education transportation services. The initial contract is for 3 years, with opportunities to renew the contract after the initial 3-year period.

Recommendation: Approval

Roll call vote to approve a contract with First Student/First Alt to provide special education student transportation services for a three-year term beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

ATTACHMENT 1

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CONTRACT

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of the date(s) signed by the parties, by and between the Board of Education of North Shore School District 112, Lake County, Illinois ("District"), and First Student, Inc. ("Contractor") (collectively referred hereto as "the parties").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, District has requested public bids for the provision of certain student transportation services ("Work"); and

WHEREAS, Contractor has submitted a bid for the provision of the Work; and

WHEREAS, District has awarded this Contract to Contractor to provide transportation in accordance with the District's Request for Bid.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms and conditions herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Duration of Contract.** The term of the Contract shall be three years beginning August 1, 2025. The term shall include the 2025-2026 school year, the 2026-2027 school year, the 2027-2028 school year. The term of the Contract shall end on July 31, 2028, or the end of the 2028 summer school program, whichever is later. The Contract may be extended as provided in the Contract Documents.
2. **Contract Documents.** The documents comprising the entirety of this Contract are all documents in the Request for Bid, including the Public Notice, Instructions to Bidders, Scope of Services, Bid Form (1, 2, 3 and 4), Certifications, Summary of Experience Sheet, Bidder Information Sheet/Checklist, General Conditions, all attachments to the foregoing, Contractor's complete bid proposal, all other documents submitted with Contractor's bid, and any addenda ("Contract Documents").
3. **Document Supremacy.** In the event, any term or provision of one Contract Document conflicts with a term or provision of another, the term or provision most beneficial to the District shall prevail. The Contractor expressly waives the doctrine of *contra proferentum*, and any and all ambiguities shall be construed in the District's favor.
4. **Compensation.** The Contractor shall provide all services as awarded by District and shall be compensated according to the terms of the Bid Documents.
5. **Complete Understanding.** This Agreement sets forth all of the promises, agreements, conditions, and understandings between the parties relative to the subject matter hereof, and no

other promises, agreements, or understandings, whether oral or written, expressed or implied, exist between the parties.

6. **Amendments.** No subsequent alteration, amendment, change, addition, deletion, or modification to this Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto unless reduced to writing and duly authorized and signed by each of them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Agreement on the date(s) written below.

CONTRACTOR:



By: Mike Petrucci

Its: Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Dated: 04/10/2025

**BOARD OF EDUCATION NORTH SHORE
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 112:**

By: _____

Its: _____
President

Dated: _____

ATTEST

By: _____

Its: _____
Secretary

Dated: _____

NORTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT 112

BID FORM 1

IN-DISTRICT STUDENTS

**No Per Student Charges Or Additional Fees For Riders

** For Further Details See Pricing Overview

SPECIAL EDUCATION ROUTES	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Non-Wheelchair AM Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair Mid-day Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair PM Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
AM Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$135.39	\$140.81	\$146.44
Mid-day Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$135.39	\$140.81	\$146.44
PM Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$135.39	\$140.81	\$146.44
Non-Wheelchair AM Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair Mid-day Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair PM Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Passenger with lift AM Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passenger with lift Mid-day Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passenger with lift PM Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Route Rate for Drivers Assistant	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum
Extracurricular Hourly rate (2-hour min)	\$67.70	\$70.41	\$73.22

Route Rate for a Shuttle (short-trip between District schools)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Route Rate for a Shuttle with an assistant (short-trip between District schools)	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee
Cancellation Fee	Total Cost of Trip	Total Cost of Trip	Total Cost of Trip

The total number of vehicles being used for all In-district students: Subject to Routing efficiencies estimates approx. 38

** For Further Details See Pricing Overview

BIDDER: **COMPANY:** First Student, Inc.

CONTACT: Peter Rudnik

PHONE: (734) 642-5113

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or to waive any informality, irregularities or defects in any or all bids and to accept that bid which **in its opinion is in the best interest of the District. Any such decision(s) shall be considered final.** The Contract will be awarded, if at all, by first considering the Bidder or Bidders most able to provide safety and comfort for the pupils, stability of service, and any other factors set forth in the request for proposal regarding the quality of service, and then price. While the financial responsibility of the Bidder is a significant concern, the Board is also concerned with the proven ability of the Bidder to satisfactorily perform so that the service will be provided in accordance with the Bid Documents.

NORTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT 112

BID FORM 2

OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION ROUTES	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Non-Wheelchair AM Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair Mid-day Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair PM Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
AM Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$178.25	\$185.38	\$192.80
Mid-day Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$178.25	\$185.38	\$192.80
PM Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$178.25	\$185.38	\$192.80
Non-Wheelchair AM Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair Mid-day Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair PM Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Passenger with lift AM Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passenger with lift Mid-day Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passenger with lift PM Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Route Rate for Drivers Assistant	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum
Extracurricular Hourly rate (2-hour min)	\$89.12	\$92.69	\$96.40

Route Rate for a Shuttle (short-trip between District schools)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Route Rate for a Shuttle with an assistant (short-trip between District schools)	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee
Cancellation Fee	Total Cost of Trip	Total Cost of Trip	Total Cost of Trip

The total number of vehicles being used for all In-district students: Subject to Routing efficiencies estimates approx. 38

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NORTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT 112

BID FORM 3

MEDICALLY FRAGILE STUDENTS – In District

SPECIAL EDUCATION ROUTES	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Non-Wheelchair AM Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair Mid-day Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair PM Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
AM Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$135.39	\$140.81	\$146.44
Mid-day Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$135.39	\$140.81	\$146.44
PM Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$135.39	\$140.81	\$146.44
Non-Wheelchair AM Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair Mid-day Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair PM Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Passenger with lift AM Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passenger with lift Mid-day Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passenger with lift PM Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Route Rate for Drivers Assistant	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum
Extracurricular Hourly rate (2-hour min)	\$67.70	\$70.41	\$73.22

Route Rate for a Shuttle (short-trip between District schools)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Route Rate for a Shuttle with an assistant (short-trip between District schools)	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee
Cancellation Fee	Total Cost of Trip	Total Cost of Trip	Total Cost of Trip

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NORTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT 112

BID FORM 4

MEDICALLY FRAGILE STUDENTS – Out of District

SPECIAL EDUCATION ROUTES	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Non-Wheelchair AM Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair Mid-day Route rate (single rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
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Mid-day Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$135.39	\$140.81	\$146.44
PM Route rate with lift (single rider)	\$135.39	\$140.81	\$146.44
Non-Wheelchair AM Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair Mid-day Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Non-Wheelchair PM Route Rate (each additional rider)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Passenger with lift AM Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passenger with lift Mid-day Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passenger with lift PM Route Rate (each additional rider)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Route Rate for Drivers Assistant	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum	\$25.00/hour 2 hour minimum
Extracurricular Hourly rate (2-hour min)	\$67.70	\$70.41	\$73.44

Route Rate for a Shuttle (short-trip between District schools)	\$79.00 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$81.73 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile	\$83.81 w/ 8 miles included \$2.65 per additional mile
Route Rate for a Shuttle with an assistant (short-trip between District schools)	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee	Total Cost of Trip + Driver Assistant Fee
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