



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

580 N 1st Bank Drive • Palatine IL 60067 | 847.963.3000 | www.ccsd15.net

DATE: November 12, 2025

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Tom Bramley, Director of Transportation
Jude Gritter, Director of Transportation
Diana McCluskey Chief School Business Official
Kathy Sauerland, Accounting Assistant
Shari Lazor Ed.D., Associate Superintendent

RE: *Approval of Bid Award #26-003 Emergency Transportation Services for Unassigned Bus Routes*

Background

This year, as in previous years, the district continues to face a significant bus driver shortage. As a result, we are requesting approval to hire up to twenty (20) emergency supplemental drivers. This 90-day contract, in accordance with Section 10-20.21 of the Illinois School Code, is necessary to cover unassigned bus routes.

As of October 15, 2025, the driver shortage remains ongoing. The district currently employs 90 active drivers, has three candidates in training, and four part-time on-call drivers. Although the Transportation Department was able to consolidate a few routes within Tier 2 (our largest tier), we still require a total of 92 drivers. Additionally, nine sub-route sets remain unfilled. On average, 10 to 15 drivers are absent daily, requiring additional coverage.

Due to the ongoing nationwide shortage of qualified drivers, the district is once again seeking supplemental drivers through a new bidding process. Ensuring safe and timely transportation for our students remains one of the district's highest priorities.

Bids Obtained

Bid #26-003, *Emergency Transportation Services for Unassigned School Bus Routes*, was published in the *Daily Herald* and on the District's website on Thursday, October 9, 2025. Bid specifications were sent to twelve (12) vendors. Five (5) responses were received and publicly opened and read aloud on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

Of the five bids submitted, two—Timeless Transportation and Zoom Elite—did not meet the bid specifications.

The most competitive compliant bid was submitted by First Student at a daily rate of \$442 per driver, with the ability to provide up to twenty (20) drivers. Grand Prairie Transit’s bid was \$445 per driver per day, with up to twenty (20) drivers available. North America Central School Bus submitted a bid of \$458.59 per driver per day, for up to eight (8) drivers.

Company	Number of Drivers Bidder Can Provide	Daily Rate per Driver
First Student (Northbrook, IL)	Up to 20	\$ 442
Grand Prairie Transit	Up to 20	\$445
North America Central School Bus (Joliet, IL)	Up to 8	\$458.59
Timeless Transportation (Glenview, IL) *	Up to 17	\$395
Zoom Elite (Lansing, IL)*	Up to 10	\$405

*NOTE: Timeless Transportation and Zoom Elite Bids did not meet Bid Specifications

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the Board of Education award a three-month contract for Emergency Transportation Services for Unassigned School Bus Routes to First Student (Northbrook, IL) for up to 20 drivers at \$442 per day per driver, effective November 20, 2025.