



# Philomath School District 17J

Benton County School District No. 17J, 1620 Applegate Street Philomath OR 97370 (541) 929-3169

## RFP - S-P02017-00015744 Philomath School District Student Transportation Services

Amendment #4 - Questions as of 2/13/2026

- **Please clarify the number of trips per route for the cost proposal. Page 26 mentions “Contractor agrees to accommodate up to 2 trips during route times...”. The Total Cost proposal page lists “27 routes” for the 65-78 Passenger Bus line. This would work out to 3 trips per route for the 9 routes the district currently runs.**
  - Please proceed with the information specified on the Total Cost Proposal sheet. While the district may not need 3 trips per every route each day, keeping the Cost Proposal sheet as it is will give us a good comparison across all proposers.
- **Fleet List per route**

Route	Bus #	Type & Capacity
37	387	C-77
39	390	C-78
40	391	C-79
41	394	C-80
42	395	C-81
45	396	C-82
46	380	C-83
47	378	C-84
48	379	C-85
SN7	2004	A- 24/1
SN6	2237	A-29
Dixie School	2316	A-10
Spare	1689	C-36/3
Spare	2518	C-77
Spare	389	C-77
Spare	374	C-77

- **What was the total annual transportation spend for the last fiscal year? What is the budget for the upcoming fiscal year?**
  - 2024-25 Total transportation cost: \$962,500
  - 2025-26 Anticipated cost: \$985,000
  - 2026-27 Budget is not finalized yet, but we would expect a modest increase from the current year.
  
- **Approximately how many MID routes do you currently service and do you continue that trend for next school year? I saw them on the invoices provided, and it was difficult to discern the frequency and number.**
  - Currently we have 9 regular home-to-school routes, 3 Special Needs Routes, and 1 Mid-Day excess route. We would expect this trend to continue into the following years.
  
- **Will the district accept contract language changes?**
  - The District intends to award a contract substantially in the form of the RFP. However, the District may consider minor modifications or clarifications requested by the Proposer.
  - Any proposed changes to the contract language must be clearly identified in the proposal as 'Exceptions.' The Proposer must provide the specific current language, the proposed new language, and the justification for the change. The District reserves the right to accept or reject any proposed exceptions and may disqualify a proposal if the exceptions constitute a material deviation from the RFP requirements.
  
- **What is the average length of current school routes?**
  - The average student route time (from first student pickup to school drop-off) is approximately 45 to 60 minutes.
  - The District's routing includes a mix of in-town routes and rural routes. Proposers should note that rural routes will typically have longer total operating times due to the distance from the bus facility to the first stop and/or from the last stop back to the facility (deadhead time).
  
- **What prompted the district to issue an RFP?**
  - The District periodically solicits proposals for major services to ensure compliance with procurement best practices. Given the length of the previous contract term and significant changes in the transportation industry and local economy, the District believes now is the appropriate time to solicit competitive, sealed proposals. As a steward of public funds, the District is issuing this RFP to verify that our transportation model aligns with current industry standards and economic conditions.

- **What were the biggest challenges with current provider?**
  - The District is not focusing on past challenges but rather on future opportunities for service enhancement. Like many districts across the country, the District faces ongoing challenges related to the national school bus driver shortage and operational efficiency.
    - The decision to issue this RFP is driven by a desire to identify a partner with robust, proven strategies for staffing stability, communication protocols and responsiveness to navigate the current transportation landscape effectively
  
- **Are there service areas the district is most concerned about improving?**
  - The District is focused on continuous improvement across all aspects of its transportation operations. However, for this solicitation, the District has identified three key areas of priority:
    - **Student Management & Safety:** The District seeks a contractor with robust driver training programs focused on student behavior management and de-escalation. A willingness to partner with the District to provide training that mirrors District behavior management philosophies. We are looking for proactive communication regarding student incidents and consistent enforcement of safety rules.
    - **Fleet Modernization:** The District places a high value on fleet reliability and safety. We are seeking proposals that offer a younger average fleet age and a clear vehicle replacement plan to minimize mechanical disruptions.
    - **Communication & Partnership:** Effective, communication between the Contractor, the District, and parents is critical. We are prioritizing solutions that offer real-time responsiveness, transparent reporting, and a dedicated local management team that integrates seamlessly with District administration.
  
- **What does the district define as success in one year?**
  - The District defines success as the delivery of safe, reliable, and efficient transportation services. We will be looking for:
    - Seamless implementation for the start of the school year including on-Time Performance for both AM pickup and PM drop-off, fully staffed route coverage, no uncovered routes due to driver shortages.
    - Responsiveness to District and Parent inquiries
    - Fleet reliability, zero bus break-down incidents.
    - Zero preventable accidents and a proactive safety training program fully implemented by the start of the school year