



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

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DATE: May 13, 2026
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Jude Gritter, Director of Transportation
Diana McCluskey, Chief School Business Official
Shari Lazor Ed.D., Associate Superintendent
RE: Approval of Bid Award #26-015 - Emergency Transportation Services
for Unassigned Bus Routes

Background

While it remains the district's priority to recruit, hire, and retain its own bus drivers whenever possible, ensuring that students have safe, consistent, and reliable transportation to and from school is essential. The district continues to experience ongoing challenges in fully staffing bus routes, consistent with trends seen in recent years. To address these staffing gaps, we are seeking approval to employ up to fifteen (15) emergency supplemental bus drivers. These drivers would be hired under a nine day agreement, pursuant to Section 10-20.21 of the Illinois School Code, to provide coverage for routes that remain unassigned.

As of May 1, 2026, the Transportation Department has 94 active drivers, with two additional candidates currently in training, three part-time drivers, and two on-call drivers. While some efficiencies have been achieved through limited route consolidation within Tier 2—the district's largest transportation tier—the department continues to require a total of 92 drivers to fully staff all routes. At this time, seven sub-route sets remain unfilled, and daily driver absences average between 10 and 15, necessitating consistent supplemental coverage.

For these reasons, the district is initiating another bid process to secure emergency supplemental drivers.

Bids Obtained

Bid #26-015, *Emergency Transportation Services for Unassigned School Bus Routes*, was published in the *Daily Herald* and on the District's website on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Bid specifications were sent to thirteen (13) vendors. One response was received and publicly opened and read aloud on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

The bid submitted by First Student is at a daily rate of \$442 per driver, with the ability to provide up to ten (10) drivers.

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the Board of Education award a nine day contract for Emergency Transportation Services for Unassigned School Bus Routes to First Student (Northbrook, IL) for up to 10 drivers at \$442 per day per driver, effective May 20, 2026.