

**SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

UNION COUNTY

**2026-2027
SCHOOL YEAR**

BID SPECIFICATIONS

FOR

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

TO AND FROM SCHOOL

BID NUMBER BR5

**LEGAL NOTICE
SPECIFICATIONS
PRESCRIBED QUESTIONNAIRE
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BID SHEET**

June 2026

SPECIFICATIONS FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
TO AND FROM SCHOOL

**SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

2026-2027 School Year

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All contractors shall comply with current applicable New Jersey statutes, regulations and with the policies and procedures of the district board of education governing student transportation.
2. The term of the contract shall, in general, be from September 1 through June 30 according to the school calendar. Student transportation contracts are deemed to include all the rules and procedures pertaining to student transportation though not expressly stated.
3. It is the intent of the Board of Education to award a contract for transportation as soon as possible after the date set for the opening of bids and to require the successful contractor to provide transportation in accordance with the school calendar. The school calendar, copy attached, is part of these specifications and of the contract.
4. The successful bidder will be considered an independent contractor and shall not be deemed to be an agent, servant, employee, or representative of the board of education.
5. As authorized by the district board of education, only enrolled eligible public and private school students, adults serving as chaperones or school personnel shall be transported. The vehicle(s) assigned to the routes specified herein shall not be utilized for other purposes during the time periods designated by the route descriptions.
6. Vehicle(s) shall arrive and/or depart the assigned school(s) as indicated on the enclosed route descriptions.
7. No transportation contract shall be subcontracted without the prior written approval of the board of education.
8. Bids must be submitted to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education no later than 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Bids are to be placed in a sealed envelope and plainly marked, "Transportation Bid 2026-2027" and presented to:

Office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education
313 South Ave.- Suite 200
Fanwood, NJ 07023
ATTENTION: Mr. Christopher Jones, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

The board or designated official will unseal the bids in the presence of the parties bidding and publicly announce the contents. If awarded a contract, your company/firm must ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations and will certify such compliance to the board of education upon request.

9. The Board of Education reserves the right to transfer transportation contracts awarded under these specifications to another Board of Education.
10. If any litigation should arise between the Board of Education and the successful bidder pursuant to the award of this contract, the venue for any suit shall be laid in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, in the county where the Board of Education administering the contract is located.

VEHICLES

1. Transportation equipment shall be properly registered by the Motor Vehicle Commission, meet all current specifications in accordance with Federal and State law, the rules of the State Board of Education, and any additional specifications of this district's board of education.
2. All vehicles shall be systematically inspected twice within the year and display a school bus certification inspection sticker to ensure that such vehicles and equipment are in safe and proper operating condition.
3. The contractor shall provide and maintain an adequate number of school buses, including spares, to safely transport any and all students assigned to the routes contained in this bid and to assure uninterrupted service in the event of mechanical breakdown.
4. **Vehicles shall have a GPS system, such as Zonar or Synovia, with access to this system provided to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District**
5. **Vehicles shall have a driver monitoring system, such as DriveCam.**
6. **Vehicles shall have cameras to monitor student behavior. Recordings shall be maintained for a minimum of 7 days.**

ACCIDENT REPORTING

1. Contractors shall ensure that every school bus driver will: a) immediately inform the principal(s) of the receiving school(s) and the school business administrator or designee of the district board of education providing the transportation following an accident which involves an injury, death, or property damage, b) complete and file the accident report as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education and deliver it to the principal(s) of the receiving school(s) by the conclusion of the next working day, and c) deliver the report to the school business administrator or designee of the district board of education providing the transportation after it is signed by the principal(s) of the receiving school(s) in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-12.2. In addition, the driver must also complete and file a motor vehicle accident report in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39-4:130.

REPORTING STUDENT LEFT UNATTENDED ON THE SCHOOL BUS

1. Every owner/operator of a school vehicle shall immediately inform the administrator or principal of the receiving school and the chief school administrator of the district board of education providing for the transportation or their designee following an incident in which it has been determined that a student has been left unattended on the school bus at the end of the route. School district or school bus contractor personnel who discover, or to whom it is reported, that a student has been left on a school bus shall immediately report the incident to the owner/operator of the vehicle. A student is considered to have been left unattended on the school bus at the end of the route when the driver has left the vicinity of the bus.

DRIVERS/AIDES

1. The driver shall be a reliable person of good character who shall possess the qualifications and communication skills necessary to perform the duties of the position, and comply with the rules set forth for drivers in all federal, state and local regulations including, but not limited to, the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act, *N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17* through 20 (background check) (Note: This requirement also applies to Certified Mobility Assistance Vehicle (MAV) Technicians transporting students with medical needs to and from school or school related activities in mobility assistance vehicles.), and tuberculosis testing.
2. If a student assigned to a special education route is not present at the assigned bus stop for three consecutive days, the contractor shall report this absence to the district transportation supervisor.
3. The bus driver shall be in full charge of the school bus at all times and will be required to report unmanageable students to the district transportation supervisor and principal of the receiving school on the district prescribed incident/discipline form.
4. A bus aide assigned to a route awarded by this bid shall be a reliable person of good character who shall possess the qualifications and communication skills necessary to perform the duties of the position, and will be required to comply with the criminal background check and tuberculosis testing as prescribed by law.
5. Bus aides shall attend to the special needs of students, maintain order on the vehicle to ensure the safety of all students, assist students getting on and off the vehicle as needed, and other duties which may be specified by the board of education.
6. If, in the judgment of the Board of Education, any driver or aide assigned to a vehicle operating under a contract awarded by this bid shall be deemed to be an unsuitable person for their position because of lack of skills necessary to perform their duties, inability to control students, failure to comply with the rules and regulations, incapacity, unbecoming conduct, or other good cause, the contractor may be required to remove the driver and/or aide from the route or all district routes. If the contractor fails to comply with this provision, the contractor may be required to show cause why this failure to comply is not deemed to constitute a breach of contract and may set aside and annul the contract.

7. **Drivers shall be required to check bus passes for all students boarding the bus, and will report students to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education who are not presenting a bus pass on a weekly basis.**

EXECUTIVE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL

1. All transportation contracts require the approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.

PAYMENT TERMS

1. Payments to contractors shall be made on or about the 28th day of the month. Payments will be made in monthly installments, provided an appropriate invoice is submitted by 8th of the month.
2. The contractor shall execute the contract and submit it to the district board of education with all required related documents in order for the district board of education to comply with the timeline for submission of contracts to the county superintendent. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the scheduled payment of services. Contractors shall visit the Department of Education's Student Transportation website to become familiar with the contract to be executed.
3. Payment for the month of June will be made by June 30th.
4. Per Diem contracts will be calculated on the actual number of days transportation services were performed.
5. Payments are subject to approval by the board of education. Therefore, payments may be delayed depending on the Board's meeting schedule.

EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

1. In the event the school is closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies, the contractor shall be notified as soon as possible by the public school authorities providing transportation. Contractors are advised to listen to school closing announcements broadcast over the local networks, as well as advised to check online for school closing announcements.
2. In an emergency where the contractor cannot meet the schedule, or if the school has a change in schedule, the party responsible for any change shall immediately notify the other party.

BASIS OF BID AND ADJUSTMENTS

1. The bidder shall submit the bid on the bid sheet contained in these bid specifications. Bids shall be submitted on a per diem or per annum basis as indicated on the enclosed bid sheet. Other bid sheets are not acceptable.
2. If there is a change in the described route results, the amount of the contract shall be adjusted as specified in the bid. Bids which do not include an adjustment amount will not be accepted.

3. The net result of any mileage adjustment to a nonpublic school transportation contract shall not exceed the maximum cost per student in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1a. Calculations to determine the per student cost shall include all students on the route, public and nonpublic.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

1. Unless otherwise specified by the board of education, the contractor shall provide automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount required by Motor Vehicle Commission and Department of Education regulations. Bidders will be required to provide, with the bid, evidence of their ability to obtain the required insurance coverage. A certificate of insurance for the duration of the contract is to be presented by the successful bidder. The certificate of insurance shall state that the contracting board of education is an additional insured party to the policy.
2. The district board of education and the Executive County Superintendent shall be notified by the insured whenever any policy is cancelled. Notification shall be made within 48 hours of the receipt of the notification of the cancellation by the insured, and before the cancellation takes effect.
3. The contractor will protect, defend, and save harmless the Board of Education from any suits or actions of every nature and description brought against it for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any party or parties by or from any acts of the contractor, its servants or agents as a result of the performance of the contract.

BID GUARANTEE

1. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond, cashier's or certified check for a minimum of five percent (5%) of the amount of the annual contract cost. In no case may the certified check, cashier's check or bid bond exceed \$50,000. No other form of guarantee is authorized. This guarantee shall be made payable to the Board of Education. The deposit will be forfeited if the bidder refuses to execute a contract. Otherwise, checks will be returned when the contract is executed and a surety (performance) bond is filed with the Board of Education. The bid guarantee for all unsuccessful bidders, except for the three lowest bidders, will be returned within 10 days after the bid opening (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted). The annual contract amount of per diem contracts is calculated by multiplying the total per diem cost by **180 days**.
2. Each bid shall be accompanied by a Consent of Surety.

PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE

1. A corporate and/or personal performance surety bond in an amount equal to the annual amount of the contract shall be required of the successful bidder. The performance guarantee shall be identified by the multi contract number or route number for which it is submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a signed Prescribed Form of Questionnaire, included in these specifications. The bond to be provided for per diem contracts must be equal to the total per diem bid multiplied by **180 days**.

BREACH OF CONTRACT/PENALTIES

1. In the event the contractor fails to provide service in accordance with these specifications and stated requirements, the contractor shall be considered in breach of contract. This may result in cancellation of the contract and/or enforcement of contractor's performance bond.
2. **If a bus is more than 15 minutes late in the morning or afternoon, the School District reserves the right to deduct \$50 from the monthly bill for each instance. In such cases, the date, route number, and other available information will be provided with monthly payment. If the district determines the late pick-up was beyond the company's control, such as unusual weather, the penalty will not be assessed.**

TRAINING PROGRAMS

1. The contractor will ensure that drivers and aides are properly trained to perform their duties, which must include, at a minimum, the training requirements lists as NJSA. 18A:39-19.1a and NJAC 6A:27-11.3. This training requirement must be completed twice each calendar year.
2. The contractor shall administer a safety education program for all permanent and substitute drivers and bus aides according to NJSA 18A:39-19.1a and NJAC 6A:27-11.3 twice each calendar year.
3. Drivers and aides are required to participate in scheduled school bus evacuation drills.

ROUTES

1. Within 10 days of the start of the contract, the contractor shall submit to the district board of education a description of the actual streets traveled for routes for the transportation of special education students and nonpublic school students for which the streets to be traveled are not described by the board of education on the route description contained in the bid. **Drivers names will also be provided at this time.**

MODIFICATIONS

1. Any modifications to these specifications after the public advertisement for bids and prior to the scheduled bid opening, will be made known by certified mail to all bidders who requested specifications.
2. The Board of Education reserves the right to make modifications of routes subject to the provisions of the bid and of the rules of the State Board of Education.
3. Minor modifications may be made in stops along the routes bid, pending actual residences of students.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative or workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to employ minority and women workers consistent with the applicable county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2, or a binding determination of the applicable county employment goals determined by the Division, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

In conforming with the applicable employment goals, the contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor shall submit to the public agency, after notification of award but prior to execution of a goods and services contract, one of the following three documents:

Letter of Federal Affirmative Action Plan Approval

Certificate of Employee Information Report

Employee Information Report Form AA302

The contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Div. of Contract Compliance & EEO as may be requested by the office from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Div. of Contract Compliance & EEO for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to **Subchapter 10 of the Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 17:27.**

OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE

1. All bidders are hereby notified that every corporation and partnership, according to the provision of Chapter 33, Laws of 1977 of the State of New Jersey, must submit a statement prior to the receipt of the bid or accompanying the bid, setting forth the names and addresses of all stockholders in the corporation or partnership who own 10% or more of its stock, of any class or of all partners in the partnership, who own 10% or greater interest therein, as the case may be. If one or more such stockholder or partner is itself a corporation or partnership, the stockholders holding 10% or more of that corporation's stock, or the individual partner's 10% or greater interest in that partnership, as the case may be, shall also be listed. The disclosure shall be continued until names and addresses of every non-corporate stockholder, and individual partner, exceeding the 10% ownership criteria established in this act, has been listed.

BUSINESS REGISTRATION

1. All bidders are hereby notified that every business organization must submit with their bid a copy of their Business Registration Certificate, in compliance with P.L. 2004, c 57 of the State of New Jersey.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

1. If awarded a contract, your company/firm will be required to certify to the board of education that you are in compliance with the drug and alcohol requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

1. The contractor shall ensure compliance with the requirements of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:39-17 through 20 governing criminal history background checks, and shall annually submit required documents to the county superintendent of schools on or before August 31 or upon employment for newly hired drivers.
2. The contractor shall ensure compliance with the requirements of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-7.6 through 12 governing child abuse and sexual misconduct checks. Additional information on this requirement is available from the Office of Criminal History Review at:
<https://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/crimhist/preemployment/>.

DRIVER AND AIDE TRAINING

1. The contractor shall ensure compliance with the requirements of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:39-19.2 and 3 governing the training of school bus drivers and aides, and shall annually submit required documents to the county superintendent of schools on or before **August 15** or upon employment for newly hired drivers and/or aides.

TUBERCULOSIS TESTING

1. The contractor shall ensure that all bus drivers and bus aides are tested for tuberculosis infection in compliance with *N.J.A.C.* 6A:32-6.3.

DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

1. The contractor is advised of the responsibility to file an annual disclosure statement on political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 19:44A-20.13 (P.L. 2005, c.271, s.3) if the contractor receives contracts in the aggregate in excess of \$50,000 from public entities in a calendar year. It is the contractor's responsibility to determine if filing is necessary. Additional information on this requirement is available from ELEC at 888-313-3532 or at www.elec.state.nj.us.

MAINTENANCE OF CONTRACT RECORDS

1. The contractor is advised that relevant records of private vendors or other persons entering into contracts with covered entities are subject to audit or review by the Office of the State Comptroller pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 52:15C-14(d). The contractor shall maintain all documentation related to products, transactions, or services under this contract for a period of five years from the date of final

payment. Such records shall be made available to the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller upon request.

Notification Required when a School Bus Driver's License is suspended or revoked.

When a contractor providing pupil transportation services under contract with a board of education is notified by the Department of Education that a school bus driver employed by the provider has had his/her bus driver's license suspended or revoked, the employing transportation provider, within one business day of the notification, must provide a statement to the NJ Department of Education verifying that the school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor.

**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS MUST SUBMITTED IN
ORDER FOR YOUR BID TO BE CONSIDERED:**

Bidder's Guarantee
Business Registration Certificate
Evidence of the Bidder's Ability to Obtain the Required Insurance Coverage
Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act Compliance Assurance
School Bus Driver Annual Certification Compliance Assurance
Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran & Russia - Belarus
Prescribed Questionnaire
Consent of Surety
Statement of Ownership Disclosure
Coordinated Transportation Services Agency Membership Form (CTSA only)
Affirmative Action Documentation or Questionnaire
Non-Collusion Affidavit
Bid Sheet