



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

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

DATE: July 27, 2026
TO: Board of Education
FROM: 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 #27-001 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 fifteen (15) 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 July 1, 2026, the driver shortage remains ongoing. The district currently employs 91 active drivers, has three candidates in training, and three part-time on-call drivers. Although the Transportation Department was able to consolidate a few route sets, we still require a total of 90 drivers. Nine sub driver 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 #27-001 *Emergency Transportation Services for Unassigned School Bus Routes* was published in the *Daily Herald* and on the District's Website on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. Bid specifications were sent to thirteen (13) vendors. Three (3) bid responses were received and publicly opened and read aloud on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 11:30 A.M.

Of the three bids submitted, one—Zoom Elite—did not meet the bid specifications.

The most competitive compliant bid was submitted by First Student at a daily rate of \$455.25 per driver, with the ability to provide up to fifteen (15) drivers.

Company	Number of Drivers Bidder Can Provide (up to 15)	Daily Rate per Driver
First Student, Inc.	15	\$455.25
Safeway Transportation Services	15	\$625.84
Zoom Elite*	12	\$290

*NOTE: Zoom Elite bid 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 (Elk Grove Village, IL) for up to 15 drivers at \$455.25 per day per driver, effective August 18, 2026.

Bid documents are available for review in the Business Office.