

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for one (1) coach bus will be received in the Bismarck Public Schools Facilities and Transportation Office, 705 South 9th Street, Bismarck, ND, until Monday, September 14th, 2026, at 2:00 PM local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids received after the scheduled time will be returned to the bidder unopened.

A copy of the bid document including specifications is available at 705 South 9th Street, Bismarck, by calling Bryan Bellon at 701-323-4510 or on our website at www.bismarckschools.org.

Each bid shall be submitted in a sealed opaque envelope upon which there is disclosed the necessary information as required by the Bid Documents. Please mark "School Bus Bid" on the envelope.

The Owner reserves the right to hold all legitimate bids for a period of Thirty (30) days after the date fixed for the opening thereof. The Owner further reserves the right to reject any and all bids or portions thereof and to waive irregularities, and the Owner shall incur no legal liability for the payment of any monies until the contract is awarded and approved by the proper authorities.

Dated this 25th day of August 2026.

/s/ Darin Scherr
Darin Scherr, Business Manager
Bismarck Public Schools
128 Soo Line Drive
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

Bismarck Public Schools
Facilities & Transportation Bus Bid
Bismarck, North Dakota

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

BID DOCUMENTS:

1. Advertisement of Bids
2. Description of Work
3. Specifications
4. Request for Approval of Substitution
5. Bid Tabulation Sheet

SCOPE:

This project consists of one bid.

One (1) 2027 Activity Bus. Delivery as soon as available.

- A. Bids are due on Monday, September 14th, 2026 at 2:00 pm local time at Facilities & Transportation, 705 South 9th St, Bismarck ND.
- B. Delivery: Contractor required to assume full responsibility for the delivery of the school and shall save the district harmless against fire, public liability, and property damage until delivery is complete at the specified site.

BID SUBMITTEL REQUIREMENTS

Each bid shall be submitted in a sealed opaque envelope upon which is disclosed the necessary information as required by the bid documents.

COORDINATION:

The bidder shall coordinate all aspects of the project with the BPS Shop Supervisor.
Contact: Bryan Bellon, Shop Supervisor, 701-323-4510.

APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions for specified items must be approved by BPS in writing, prior to submission of bid. It is the responsibility of the bidder to provide adequate information for evaluating the acceptability of any and all items they wish to offer as substitutes. Submission of substitutions shall be sent to bryan_belon@bismarckschool.org on or before 4:00 pm September 10th, 2026. Notification of approval or denial of any or all substitutions shall be made by September 11th, 2026.

END OF DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Bismarck Public Schools - Facilities and Transportation

Coach Bus Specifications

GENERAL INFORMATION

These specifications shall cover the minimum requirements for school buses constructed for sale to Bismarck Public Schools (hereinafter referred to as BPS).

It is the intent of these specifications to provide vehicles allowing the safest operating conditions available, the greatest ease of maintenance, and the lowest possible life cycle cost.

In all cases, the materials and/or equipment used in the construction of these vehicles shall meet or exceed the requirements of these specifications. The buses shall consist of the specific items listed and such other items or components that are considered industry standard in a complete bus.

All models offered for sale must be new and of a model in current production or an update of an existing model. All buses shall meet the requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for FMVSS 227 with 3-point seatbelts. The quality of materials and workmanship shall result in coach bus meeting all FMVSS and be ready for operation ("Ready to Use") for the intended application. "Ready To Use" shall be defined as meeting all applicable specifications, with all equipment functioning properly and without substantive defects.

EXCEPTIONS

By submission of signed bid, vendor certifies that the equipment it proposes to furnish complies with all specifications listed herein. Substitutions for specified items must be approved by BPS in writing, prior to submission of bid. It is the responsibility of the bidder to provide adequate information for evaluating the acceptability of any and all items they wish to offer as substitutes.

PUBLICATIONS

The successful vendor shall be required to furnish one (1) set of the following: parts books, service manuals, wiring diagrams, etceteras.

Parts books and/or parts listings shall be explicit in detailing all parts used in the construction of these buses. The successful vendor shall provide one (1) copy of the parts listings on a USB drive.

SERVICE

A pre-delivery service shall be performed on each bus prior to delivery. This service shall insure that all fluid levels and tire pressures are at proper levels and that all components on the buses are fully operational and properly adjusted. Documentation shall be provided to BPS noting the repairs and/or adjustments necessary. Other notations shall at a minimum include total miles driven during road test (minimum of 10 miles), transmission shift points at full throttle, coolant freeze levels, coolant inhibitor levels, front axle alignment and tire balance.

DELIVERY

Contractor is required to assume full responsibility for the delivery of bus and shall save the district harmless against fire, public liability, and property damage until delivery is complete at the specified site. Delivery shall be made during normal school bus shop operating hours (7:00 AM – 4:00 PM) and workweek (Monday – Friday). Deliveries will not be accepted on holidays.

WARRANTY

Bidders shall be required to furnish with their bids a warranty (parts and labor) covering all materials and workmanship used in the construction of vehicles provided under this contract; excluding normal service and maintenance items (fluids, filters, tires, bulbs). Written warranties MUST be included with bid package.

Warranty coverage shall be sixty (60) months/100,000 miles for complete power train, electronic controls, body structure, and paint. All other items shall be warranted for a minimum of twelve (12) months/unlimited mileage or manufacturer's standard warranty, whichever is greater, unless otherwise specified herein.

Components carrying extended warranties or warranties that are supported in part or in whole by a party other than the bidder shall require written certification. This certification must be attached to the bid and shall be in the form of a letter, on company letterhead, clearly delineating the portion of the warranty to be covered and signed by appropriate personnel. It shall be understood that certification by component manufacturers in no way decreases the bidder's responsibility for maintaining the warranty periods as specified herein.

SCHOOL BUS SPECIFICATIONS

The following specifications relate to a rear engine activity type bus.

1. AIR CONDITIONING

Bus shall be equipped with 215,000+ btu air conditioning unit. The condensers shall be roof top mounted. The system shall be ducted through the overhead compartments with vent at each seat location. Driver shall be provided OEM A/C.

2. ALTERNATOR

The electric power source shall be a heavy-duty bus/truck type alternator manufactured in the USA. This alternator shall produce a minimum three hundred (300) ampere output and a maximum cold continuous draw of ten (10) milli-amperes. If alternator is located within eight inches (8") of the turbo, a heat shield must be installed to direct heat away from the alternator.

3. AXLES

Axle ratings shall be sufficient in meeting the GVWR when the vehicle is at max payload.

Suspension shall consist of air ride control stabilization system.

4. BATTERY

All chassis shall come equipped with triple twelve-volt (12v) absorbent glass mat, maintenance free, commercial duty, stud-type, batteries. All battery cables shall be appropriately sized. The batteries shall be designed with a minimum capacity rating of nineteen hundred Cold Cranking Amps (2850 CCA) combined at zero degrees Fahrenheit with one hundred eighty (180) minute reserve capacity at 80 degrees Fahrenheit. A manual battery disconnect is to be installed inside the battery box.

5. CAPACITY

Seating capacity shall be a minimum of 55. Seats shall recline with table trays, dual arm rests and grab handles.

6. DOORS

SERVICE DOOR - Service door shall be plug style with power step and include a modesty panel. Step well shall be equipped with LED lights that operate with door.

Door control lever/switch shall be mounted in an approved location that is easily accessible to the driver.

7. EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

All emergency equipment (except Seat Belt Cutter) shall be properly mounted and include the following.

BODY FLUID CLEAN-UP KIT - All buses shall be equipped with a removable, moisture proof and dust proof body fluid clean-up kit meeting state requirements.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER - All buses shall be equipped with a dry chemical, compressed air type fire extinguisher bearing Under Writer's Laboratories, Inc. rating of not less than 2A-10BC (5 lbs). The extinguisher shall be equipped with a pressure gauge and a flexible rubber hose. The fire extinguisher shall be securely mounted in such a manner as allowing reading the pressure gauge without removing the extinguisher from the bracket. The operating mechanism shall be sealed to prevent tampering. The seal shall not interfere with the use of the fire extinguisher.

FIRST AID KIT - All buses shall be equipped with a removable, moisture proof and dustproof first aid kit meeting state requirements.

8. EMERGENCY EXITS

All emergency exits shall conform to FMVSS 227 and shall be appropriately marked with operating instructions. Operating instructions shall not be affixed to glass surfaces.

EMERGENCY PUSH OUT WINDOWS - Buses shall be equipped with 3 push-out windows located on each side. Positioning of these windows shall be staggered. Windows shall be hinged to the front and latched in such a manner as to permit easy release. Interior latches/handles for these windows shall be designed in such a manner that will eliminate snagging of clothing during emergency evacuations.

EMERGENCY ROOF HATCHES - Bus shall be equipped with two emergency roof hatches.

9. ENGINE

The chassis shall be equipped with a heavy-duty, electronically controlled turbo diesel engine. Electronic links between the engine and transmission shall interface to insure optimal operating efficiency. All engines shall be equipped with an ignition switch operated electric shutdown. A minimum of one (1) spare key shall be provided with each bus.

All engines must be unaltered current production models and shall meet all applicable Federal Regulations at the time of purchase. Engine must be a turbo diesel rated at a minimum of 350 HP. Cummins engine is preferred.

Turbo charger and water pump shall carry same warranty as engine. Turbo charger failure caused by lack of lubrication shall not be cause to void the warranty. All engines shall be equipped with a thermostatically controlled cooling fan.

All engines shall be equipped with a heated primary fuel/water separator filter and a secondary fuel filter of the engine manufacturer's standard type. The fuel/water separator shall be designed for easy detection of water accumulation without removal of filter and shall be equipped with a built-in drain valve.

Engine shall be equipped with block type heater. Engine shall have electronic fast idle that is controlled by brake.

Engine shall come with turbo exhaust brake with on/off switch in dash.

10. GLASS

All glass shall be legibly and permanently marked. There shall be no exposed glass edges.

WINDSHIELD - The windshield shall be of a glass construction consisting of polished plate glass, AS1 and conforming to American Safety Code for Safety Glazing Materials. Glass to be solidly set to provide a watertight fit.

WINDOW AND DOOR GLASS - Glass used in doors and windows shall be tinted tempered glass.

11. FLOOR

FLOOR CONSTRUCTION – The floors shall be constructed of 3/4" DURAGUARD PLUS UNDERLAYMENT COMPOSITE FLOORING TO RESIST MOLD/MILDEW/FIRE.

FLOOR FRAME – Floor frame shall be covered with a rust preventative covering.

FLOOR COVERING – Floor shall consist of transit wood pattern flooring.

FLOOR PANEL JOINTS - Must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Standard #227.

12. FUEL TANK

Fuel tank shall hold the capacity of 100 gallons of fuel.

Fuel tank and lines shall meet all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Fuel filter shall be heated.

13. HEADLIGHT

Headlights shall be adjusted before delivery of bus.

Headlights must be LED or Projector.

14. HEATER AND DEFROSTER

Heater/defroster system shall be built into the A/C system. All heaters shall bear the manufacturer's nameplate showing performance ratings. Vendor shall provide maximum additional heating.

AUXILLIARY HEATER – Bus shall be equipped with an engine preheater.

DEFROSTER - The defroster installation shall provide airflow outlets along the entire length, of the lower edges, of the windshields to provide for adequately defrosting/clearing the full length of the windshield. A suitable device shall be provided to preclude dropping foreign objects through the defroster outlets into defroster motor area.

15. HORN

All chassis shall be equipped with a minimum of one, two tone electric horn. The horn shall be securely mounted and located away from the wheel splash area so as to prevent contamination from road spray. Horn switch (button) shall be located on the steering wheel.

16. INSTRUMENTS AND INSTRUMENT PANEL

The dash shall be designed to eliminate glare on the gauges when operating the bus in bright sunlight. All instruments and gauges shall be mounted on the instrument panel in such a manner that each is clearly visible to the driver while in a normal seated position.

The chassis shall be equipped with an instrument panel consisting of the following instruments and gauges (lights in lieu of gauges are not acceptable):

360 DEGREE EXTERIOR SAFTEY CAMERAS – Shall be included.

BACKUP ALARM – Shall be 112 db minimum.

ENGINE SERVICE LIGHT – A dash-mounted light shall be provided to indicate if the electronic engine control module detects a malfunction.

FUEL GAUGE

HIGH BEAM HEADLIGHT INDICATOR - Must have replaceable bulb or be LED lighted.

INSTRUCTIONS - Any special operating instructions for engine or transmission shall be displayed in an approved location on the dash panel.

LOW COOLANT WARNING - Shall include a warning light and buzzer to indicate low coolant levels in the de-aeration tank.

ODOMETER - Shall indicate a minimum of six (6) digits not including tenths (1/10) of a mile.

OIL PRESSURE GAUGE - Shall include a warning light and buzzer to indicate low oil pressure based on engine manufacturer's recommendation. If mechanical oil pressure gauge is provided, all inside plumbing shall utilize stainless steel braided hose.

SPEEDOMETER, ELECTRONIC - Shall be calibrated to meet all applicable FMVSS guidelines and front wheel or transmission driven. The speedometer shall be mounted so as to be readable from the right front passenger seat when the bus is in operation.

TACHOMETER/ENGINE HOURMETER - Hourmeter shall be wired to operate only when engine is running.

TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE GAUGE

TURN SIGNAL INDICATORS, LEFT/RIGHT

VOLTMETER - Shall have a graduated scale capable of indicating up to sixteen volts (16v), shall indicate battery voltage, and shall be off when the ignition switch is in the off position.

17. INSULATION AND SEALING – R Value insulation package.

ENGINE COMPARTMENT - Noise barrier insulation shall be provided to reduce interior engine noise level at the driver's right ear to a maximum of seventy-eight decibels (78 db).

18. LAMPS AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS

All lighting equipment shall be furnished to comply with the FMVSS 108 and the laws and regulations of the State of North Dakota. All lights shall be LED (light emitting diode) lamps and shall have a hard-shell coating to protect from chemicals and abrasion. The lighting equipment provided shall at a minimum include:

19. LUBRICATION

Chassis lubricating system shall be high-pressure type with standard hydraulic type grease fittings. Fittings shall quick attachment type and shall be positioned so as to be easily accessible for maintenance and service without removal of panels/components.

20. MIRRORS

EXTERIOR MIRRORS - All buses shall be equipped with an exterior mirror system complying with all requirements of FMVSS. The mirrors shall also be heated. The mirrors shall be remote controlled.

21. RADIATOR

Heavy-duty, truck type radiator exceeding engine and transmission manufacturers heat rejection requirements shall be furnished and mounted so as to prevent undue strain and vibration being transmitted to it through attaching parts. The radiator and coolant recovery system shall carry the minimum of one year warranty. The fan shall be clutch type with temperature control. The antifreeze shall be rated to minus 40 degrees.

22. RADIO

AM/FM Stereo radio with auxiliary connectivity and eight speakers.

Passenger cabin will have an additional radio controlled by the passenger cabin.

23. EAT AND SEAT BELT - DRIVER

DRIVER'S SEAT - The driver's seat shall be a smooth ride control dual arm rest seat with air ride.

DRIVER'S SEAT BELT – Driver's seatbelt will conform to FMVSS227 specifications.

24. SEATS - PASSENGER

Seats shall recline with table trays, dual arm rests, grab handles and 3-point seat belts. Front row of seats will face rear with tables.

Seats shall be provided with USB and 120 power.

25. STORAGE, INTERIOR OVERHEAD

Inside storage compartments shall be LED lit. Overhead reading lights will be provided.

26. STORAGE, UNDERNEATH LOCKABLE

Storage compartments provided will allow for no less than 450 cu ft of storage. These compartments shall be key lockable, shall have LED interior lights and shall be sealed to be dust proof and watertight.

27. TINTED WINDOWS

All side windows shall be tinted AS-3 glass (light transmittance 28% to 31%).

28. TIRES AND WHEELS/RIMS

All chassis shall be equipped with two (2) 11R x 22.5 14 ply front and four (4) 11R x 22.5 14 ply rear (m/s), ten (10) hole disc wheels. Wheels shall be hub pilot type with five (5) hand holes. Steer axle and outer drive axle wheels shall be polished aluminum.

All tires/rim assemblies shall be dynamically balanced and aligned. Any tire not balance correctable with less than twenty (20) ounces of weight shall be replaced. All tires shall be evaluated during pre-delivery service road test. Any tire deemed out of balance during road test shall be corrected based on the guidelines as stated above.

29. TRANSMISSION

The transmission shall be fully automatic, electronically controlled and have a minimum of six (6) forward ratios, neutral, and reverse (Allison 3000 series rated at 1050 torque or higher) and shall include a 3-year warranty. All forward gear changes, plus forward to reverse, shall incorporate down shift inhibitors.