

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

School Bus Fleet Management and Transportation Technology System

Issuing Agency: Davidson County Board of Education

Department: Transportation

Contact: Brad Sweatman, Director of Transportation

Email: bradsweatman@davidson.k12.nc.us

Phone: 336-242-5569

Contract Term: Multiple Years

Issue Date: October 27, 2026

Proposal Due Date: December 4, 2026

1. Purpose

Davidson County Board of Education requests proposed pricing from qualified vendors for an integrated school transportation technology solution to improve student safety, fleet efficiency, driver accountability, and communication with parents and guardians.

2. Scope of Services

The vendor shall provide all required software, hardware, installation, configuration, training, maintenance, technical support, and system integration. A cloud-based, integrated solution is preferred.

The system shall include:

A. GPS and Fleet Management

- Real-time GPS tracking and administrative fleet maps.
- Vehicle status, mileage, engine hours, and trip history.
- Route adherence, stop arrival/departure times, and schedule comparisons.
- Geofencing and configurable alerts for speeding, idling, unauthorized movement, route deviations, delays, and other safety concerns.
- Historical data, reporting, and mobile access.

B. Driver Time and Attendance

- Driver clock-in/clock-out and bus/route assignments.
- Work hours, overtime, absences, leave, and timecard management.
- Missed-punch alerts, timecard corrections, and audit trails.
- Secure employee authentication and payroll integration with **LINQ**.

C. Parent/Guardian Bus Tracking

- Secure web portal and mobile access.
- Bus locations, assigned stops, and estimated arrival times.
- Notifications for delays, cancellations, route changes, and other transportation alerts.
- Integration with District student information systems and appropriate protection of student data.

D. Driver Turn-by-Turn Navigation

- Integration with the District's TIMS routing software.
- Turn-by-turn visual and audible directions.
- Assigned routes, upcoming stops, and pickup/drop-off locations.
- Remote route updates and route deviation alerts.
- School bus-specific restrictions, including low bridges, road and weight restrictions, hazardous locations, and District-designated restricted roads.

E. Administrative Tools and Reporting

- Centralized dashboards for fleet, drivers, attendance, routes, alerts, and system status.
- Configurable reports for vehicle utilization, mileage, driver hours, attendance, route performance, on-time performance, and parent notifications.
- Export to Excel, CSV, and PDF.
- Role-based access, scheduled reporting, and mobile applications where available.

3. Hardware and Connectivity

Vendors shall identify all required GPS devices, tablets, mounting equipment, wiring, antennas, cellular service, and other hardware. Include manufacturer, model, specifications, warranty, installation costs, replacement costs, data usage, and ongoing connectivity fees.

4. System Integration

Vendors shall identify available integrations with:

- District TIMS routing software.
- LINQ payroll and human resources systems.
- Student information systems.
- Transportation management and parent notification systems.
- District identity management and single sign-on systems.

Describe available APIs, integration requirements, implementation costs, and any third-party services required.

5. Security, Privacy, and Data Ownership

The vendor shall:

- Protect District and student information in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Provide encryption, access controls, audit logs, backup, and disaster recovery protections.
- Identify data retention, export, and deletion procedures.
- Ensure District data remains District property and is available in a commonly used, machine-readable format upon contract termination.
- Disclose any security incident affecting District data promptly.

A monthly system availability commitment of at least 99.9% is preferred, excluding scheduled maintenance.

6. Implementation, Training, and Support

Vendors shall describe implementation schedules, installation, staff and driver training, user documentation, software updates, hardware maintenance, and technical support.

Proposals shall include support hours, emergency support availability, response times, escalation procedures, and a proposed Service Level Agreement (SLA).

7. Vendor Qualifications

Include company background, years in business, public school district experience, number of vehicles supported, implementation approach, and at least three references from comparable public school districts.

8. Product Demonstration

Shortlisted vendors may be required to demonstrate GPS tracking, historical trip data, geofencing, route alerts, driver timekeeping, LINQ payroll export, parent bus tracking, driver navigation, route updates, reporting, and system integrations.

9. Required Pricing

Provide a complete, itemized price proposal covering:

A. Initial Costs

- Hardware and installation.
- Setup, configuration, and implementation.
- Data migration and system integration.

- Initial training.

B. Recurring Costs

- Software subscriptions and licensing.
- Per-vehicle, per-user, or per-student fees.
- Cellular connectivity and data service.
- Technical support, maintenance, and upgrades.

C. Optional Costs

- Additional hardware, applications, and modules.
- Student ridership verification.
- Extended services and integrations.
- Future enhancements and additional training.

Identify contract terms, renewal pricing, warranties, discounts, and all other applicable fees. Clearly distinguish one-time and recurring expenses and provide a total cost of ownership for the proposed contract term. No undisclosed fees shall be permitted.

10. Fleet Specification for Proposal

The district will require GPS tracking for over 300 vehicles with GPS, Time and Attendance, Parent Portal, and Turn by Turn directions for our school bus fleet. All other vehicles will only require GPS tracking (activity buses, service trucks, and other county fleet vehicles). All vehicles will require access to GPS reporting such as vehicle historical data and mileages.

A. School Buses – 204 (possible expansion/subtraction due to ridership demands)

- 176 route buses
- 28 spare buses

B. Activity Buses – 48 (GPS Only)

C. Service Trucks and County Fleet Vehicles – 60 (GPS Only)

D. Options for spare GPS units

11. Proposal Submission

Submit proposals electronically by email to:

Brad Sweatman, Director of Transportation

Davidson County Board of Education

Email: bradsweatman@davidson.k12.nc.us

Vendors may submit written questions to the contact above before the District's designated question deadline. All questions submitted and responded by the district will be shared with all companies.

12. District Rights and Desired Outcome

The District reserves the right to reject proposals, waive minor informalities, request additional information or demonstrations, negotiate with vendors, award all or part of the requested services, or cancel the solicitation.

The District seeks a reliable, secure, cost-effective transportation technology partner offering integrated fleet tracking, driver time and attendance, parent bus tracking, and school bus navigation, with the flexibility to support future transportation needs.

END OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS