



School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Approval of the July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 Extension of Pupil Transportation Services with First Student

Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Lisa Rider, Director, Finance & Operations

Nature of Action Requested by Board

Board action
Board information or scheduled report

Background Information

Negotiations with First Student, Inc. have completed. The district discussed in the fall the opportunity to conduct an Request for Proposal (RFP) for transportation services and opted instead to enter into direct negotiations with First Student knowing we only had a couple of years remaining before we would be required to conduct an RFP. The attached extension is the fourth extension with First Student, Inc. and represents the last opportunity for extension before an RFP for transportation services is required due to our contract having been in place for the maximum ten years as of June 30, 2026.

The Highlights of the contract changes are as follows:

- Extension of two years ending June 30, 2026.
- Rates reflect a 16.5 percent increase over FY24 rates for FY25 and an increase of 9% for FY26.
- New to this addendum is a requirement that the district will be responsible for all activity and field trip costs incurred in the event an outside carrier is utilized to cover Activity or Field Trips due to driver shortages, the District shall be responsible for all costs incurred.
- First Student will have first right of refusal on all work. If First Student is unable to provide the service requested, the District may utilize another vendor.

Full copy of the agreement is available upon request.

The recommendation is for the school board to approve the Fourth Extension of Pupil Transportation Services Agreement between Independent School District #256 and the First Student, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.