



Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Executive Director of Business & Operations, Karen Apostoli
DATE: October 16, 2025
RE: Transportation

This memo is:

- ☒ Information only.
☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: _____

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated. ____
☐ or attached to this memo

Basic information:

IL Central has continued to demonstrate the inability to meet the needs of the district.

Personnel at Illinois Central - Illinois Central does not have the management, dispatch, or driver personnel to manage the size of our district.

- At the start of the year, the previous safety person resigned from Illinois Central. That position has been filled as of last week.
 - This caused significant delays in video footage for administrators attempting to manage student behavior on the bus.
- At the start of this year, one of the dispatch employees resigned as well.
- Last week, another dispatch employee resigned.
 - There is one dispatch person at this time, as well as the branch manager covering for the open position.

Daily Transportation Needs - Illinois Central does not appear to have a handle on which routes are running, which routes are on time, and which routes have a driver “no show/no call.”

- Each morning, we have (on average) 5 routes that are 10 or more minutes late.
 - Generally, 3 of the 5 are special transportation routes - both in and out of the district
- Today, a bus was in an accident. There were no students on board; however, this bus was supposed to run a preschool route, an elementary route, and an after-school activity route.
 - Illinois Central did not have a driver to send to cover those routes. Instead, we had to wait until the bus was cleared to drive, which caused significant delays for the preschool route.

- Today, an out-of-district student was picked up an hour late and Illinois Central had to “borrow” a bus and driver from their Carol Stream location to do so.
- Each afternoon, we have (on average) 5 or more routes that arrive at elementary schools 10 or more minutes late. Today, a special transportation route left Currier at 3:51 pm.

Communication - Is inconsistent.

- Daily Google Sheet for arrivals and “all clear” is not consistently used, particularly now with the most recent loss in dispatch
- Illinois Central will call or email when they can - typically, a driver didn’t show, so the route is running behind.

Background or historical information:

According to the Board Book, the last time the district went out to bid for transportation was in 2016. Recent legislation allows schools to renew, or extend, transportation contracts up to ten (10) years, if desired. District 33 has used Illinois Central since 2011.

Transportation costs have increased significantly nationwide, and there are very few transportation providers large enough to accommodate the needs of the district.

Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue: (Options) 3 options

Recommendations: (Recommendations) and (Evaluate)

The district’s legal counsel is recommending that we go out to bid for transportation service in Spring 2026.

Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?: