



McLean County Unit District No. 5

1809 West Hovey Avenue
Normal, IL 61761-4339

To: Board of Education
From: Martin Hickman, CFO and Joe Adelman, Executive Director of Operations
CC: Dr. Kristen Kendrick-Weikle, Superintendent
Date: 07/16/2025
Re: School Bus Purchase

Recommendation

We recommend approving the purchase of 13 pre-owned school buses from Central State Bus Sales, Inc. for a total cost of \$1,415,300. This includes 8 standard 71-passenger buses and 5 preowned wheelchair lift-equipped buses. These 13 pre-owned buses are critical for immediately addressing our current shortage and operational challenges.

Funding

Due to the continued proration of state-mandated transportation reimbursement, which has created a structural deficit in the transportation fund, we will need to utilize working cash funds to make this purchase.

Current Fleet

Our current fleet consists of 142 buses to cover 137 routes. Ideally, we should have a 10% surplus of vehicles to ensure smooth operations and account for maintenance needs. Currently, eight of our buses are out of service due to severe engine issues, causing us to borrow buses from other First Student locations.

We've recently received two of the new electric buses with the remaining three expected next week. Administration also plans to recommend the purchase of additional new buses through the bidding process later this year.