



Date: September 8th, 2026
To: East Aurora School District 131 Board of Education
From: Gladys De Lucio, Director of Transportation
Subject: Paid Transportation Program – 2026–2027 Pilot

BACKGROUND

As part of an ongoing effort to provide families with additional transportation options, the District is exploring a paid transportation program for students who do not qualify for state-funded transportation based on the 1.5-mile eligibility requirement or a state-determined hazardous roadway.

The proposed program would allow ineligible families to purchase transportation services for the school year and utilize the nearest established bus stop, provided capacity is available on the assigned route.

SUMMARY

Research of surrounding school districts indicates that paid transportation programs are commonly offered when space is available on existing neighborhood routes. Students who are eligible for district-provided transportation would continue to receive priority seating.

Families participating in the program could select round-trip or one-way transportation, with fees established on an annual basis. The District could provide the option of paying the annual fee in two installments.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Based on a review of nine surrounding school districts, the average annual cost for paid transportation is approximately \$615 per student.

The District would establish the final annual fee for East Aurora School District 131 based on transportation costs, available capacity, administrative requirements, and the overall structure of the pilot program.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of Education authorize the Transportation Department to establish a Paid Transportation Program for the 2026–2027 school year as a pilot program, subject to route capacity, established eligibility criteria, and procedures developed by the Transportation Department.



Paid Transportation Research – District Comparison

School District	Annual Cost / Student	One-Way Cost	Enrollment Window	Additional Enrollment Notes
Consolidated School District #62 (Des Plaines)	\$430	\$215	—	—
Glenview School District #34	\$469	\$234	—	—
Community Consolidated School District #15 (Palatine)	\$500	\$600	9/1–10/16	Ridership after 9/18
Orland Park School District	\$540	\$270	—	—
Woodridge School District #68	\$550	\$275	—	—
Park Ridge School District #64	\$550	\$275	—	—
Valley View School District (Romeoville/Bolingbrook)	\$575	\$287.50	7/6–7/31	Reopens 9/8
Kildeer Countryside School District #96	\$875	\$437.50	—	—
Glencoe School District #35	\$1,050	\$850	—	—

Average Cost per Rider: \$615 per year

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