TROUP INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 3, 2026
To: Troup ISD Board of Trustees
From: District Administration
Subject: TCEQ Clean School Bus Grant Award and Bus Purchasing Recommendation

Troup ISD has been awarded a **$383,776.00 grant through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Clean School Bus Program** to assist with the purchase of four new school buses. This represents $95,944 in grant funding per bus.

The district has the option to purchase two buses during the current school year and the remaining two during the next school year, or purchase all four buses during the current school year, subject to grant requirements.

Bus Manufacturer Quotes

The district has obtained quotes from three school bus manufacturers:

Manufacturer	Cost Per Bus
Blue Bird	$150,000
Thomas	$173,995
IC	$173,553

Estimated Financial Comparison

Manufacturer	Total Cost (4 Buses)	District Cost After Grant
Blue Bird	$600,000	$216,224
Thomas	$695,980	$312,204
IC	$694,212	$310,436

District Recommendation

Although Blue Bird submitted the lowest quote, the administration is recommending the purchase of **IC school buses**.

This recommendation is based on problems the district has experienced with Blue Bird buses in the past. While the initial purchase price of Blue Bird buses is lower, the district believes it is

important to consider reliability, maintenance concerns, and the long-term operational needs of our transportation department when making this investment.

The IC buses are priced at $173,553 each, which is $23,553 more per bus than Blue Bird. Purchasing four IC buses would result in an additional cost of $94,212 compared to Blue Bird.

However, based on our previous experiences, the administration believes the additional investment in IC buses is justified and represents a better long-term choice for the district.

Purchasing Options and Potential Price Increases

The district has two options for utilizing the grant:

- **Option 1 – Purchase Two Buses This Year and Two Next Year:** This option would spread the financial impact over two budget years. However, after discussions with representatives from all three bus companies, the district has been informed that bus prices are expected to increase approximately $10,000 to $15,000 per bus next year. Delaying the purchase of two buses could result in an additional **$20,000 to $30,000 in total costs**.
- **Option 2 – Purchase All Four Buses This Year:** Purchasing all four buses during the current school year would allow the district to take advantage of current pricing, avoid anticipated price increases, and immediately update its transportation fleet.

Funding Breakdown – Recommended IC Bus Purchase

Funding Description	Amount
Cost per IC school bus	$173,553
Number of buses	4
Total purchase cost	**$694,212**
TCEQ Clean School Bus Grant	($383,776)
Total district contribution	**$310,436**

Per-Bus Funding Breakdown

Funding Source	Per Bus
IC bus purchase price	$173,553
TCEQ grant contribution	$95,944
District contribution	**$77,609**

The TCEQ grant will cover approximately **55.3% of the total purchase cost**, with the district responsible for the remaining **44.7%**.

Financial Impact of Delaying Two Buses

	Purchase All 4 This Year	**Purchase 2 This Year, 2 Next Year**
Total bus cost	$694,212	$714,212–$724,212
TCEQ grant funding	$383,776	$383,776
District contribution	**$310,436**	**$330,436–$340,436**

Purchasing all four IC buses this year could save the district an estimated **$20,000 to $30,000** compared to delaying the purchase of two buses until next year.

The TCEQ Clean School Bus Program grant provides Troup ISD with an excellent opportunity to replace four school buses while significantly reducing the financial impact on the district.

Based on current quotes, the total cost of four IC buses would be **$694,212**, with the TCEQ grant covering $383,776 and the district responsible for the remaining **$310,436**.

Considering the district's previous experiences with Blue Bird buses, the anticipated increase in bus prices next year, and the opportunity to maximize the value of the grant, we anticipate being able to bring you a formal recommendation at the December Board Meeting.

Final purchasing arrangements will be subject to TCEQ grant requirements, available district funding, and Board approval.