

Background / Purpose:

Ector County Independent School District provides certified school bus driver safety training services to Region 18 Education Service Center (ESC) to support initial certification and recertification of school bus drivers across the Region 18 service area.

The District's Director of Transportation is a state-certified school bus driver safety trainer and is qualified to deliver this training on behalf of the District. Region 18 compensates ECISD for these services, and ECISD compensates the Director of Transportation through District payroll as additional duty compensation.

House Bill 3372 (Texas Education Code §11.006) requires school board approval when a district administrator receives compensation for personal services performed for a regional education service center.

District Benefit:

Ector County ISD operates the largest transportation department within the Region 18 service area and employs the highest number of school bus drivers requiring initial certification and recurring recertification. Maintaining an in-house, state-certified school bus driver safety trainer provides direct operational, financial, and safety-related benefits to the district.

The ECISD-certified trainer provides initial certification and recertification for ECISD bus drivers and also delivers safety certification training to bus drivers from all participating school districts within the Region 18 service area. This regional training model strengthens inter-district collaboration while ensuring consistent, high-quality safety training standards.

District-specific benefits include increased scheduling flexibility, reduced reliance on outside training providers, faster onboarding of new drivers, and timely recertification that minimizes service disruptions. Having an in-house safety trainer reinforces ECISD safety expectations and supports ongoing compliance with state and federal transportation requirements.

Additionally, the partnership with Region 18 allows ECISD to offset training-related costs while positioning the district as a regional leader in pupil transportation safety and professional development.

Board Findings (Required by HB 3372):

The Board finds that:

1. The services provided do not create a conflict of interest for the district.
2. The services do not negatively impact the performance of the administrator's duties for ECISD.
3. The services are performed outside of the administrator's regular duty hours or during approved leave.
4. Approval of this agreement is in the best interest of Ector County ISD and supports regional transportation safety and compliance.

Financial Impact:

Region 18 Education Service Center compensates ECISD for the training services provided. Compensation paid to the Director of Transportation is processed through ECISD payroll as additional duty pay. There is no negative financial impact to the District's general operating budget.