



NTDSE
Empowering All To Achieve

Niles Township District for Special Education #807
Cook County Districts 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73.5, 74

10-15-2025

TO: Tarin Kendrick

FROM: Kathy Gavin

RE: NORTH SHORE TRANSIT CONTRACT EXTENSION PROPOSAL

On behalf of the member districts, NTDSE facilitates the special education transportation contract for students who reside within Niles Township and who qualify for special education transportation. These routes include transportation for NTDSE students who attend class at the Molloy Education Center and in NTDSE satellite classrooms. It also includes students who attend therapeutic day schools outside of Niles Township and have transportation listed as a related service on their IEP.

Since the end of the initial 3-year contract in 2015, the NTDSE Governing Board has approved eight additional one-year contract extensions and one two-year contract extension. The current two-year extension will end on July 31, 2026. Over the past five years, the rate increases have been as follows:

2021-2022	3.25%
2022-2023	9.0%
2023-2024	5.0%
2024-2025	6.0%
2025-2026	5.5%

In August 2023, House Bill 2235 was passed by the 103rd General Assembly, and it amended the Transportation Article of the School Code. This legislation included language that allows school boards to enter into or extend a contract for any period of time deemed appropriate by a School Board.

Based on the increased cost of gas, vehicles, insurance, and proposed increased salaries for drivers and aides, Cook, Illinois has offered a 2-year rate increase schedule as follows:

YEAR 1 2026-2027 5.5% on all vehicles, including the cost of the bus aides.

YEAR 2 2027-2028 5.0% on all vehicles, including the cost of the bus aides.

I have found North Shore to be responsive to our day-to-day requests, and their overall service is very dependable. Their rates are competitive when compared to similar special education transportation companies. They are diligent in pursuing all areas related to ensuring student safety. They have partnered with NTDSE for staff trainings related to behavior intervention, and we continue to see a decrease in bus incidents as a result. I recommend a two-year contract extension with North Shore Transit for the time period of August 1, 2026, through July 30, 2028.

Thank you.