



# River Trails School District 26

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December 10, 2024

To: Board of Education  
From: Ryan Berry, Asst. Superintendent for Business Services  
RE: Student Transportation Services Bid Tentative Timeline

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended by the administration that the board approve a five (5) year contract with Cook-Illinois (Grand Prairie Transit) for student transportation services starting at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. It is also recommended that the district forgo the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant of \$2.02M for ten (10) electronic buses.

## **Background**

On October 24, 2024, the district issued a public notice to bid on student transportation services. The bid stated that it is the intention of the district to:

1. Enter into an agreement for five (5) years and may be extended on a year-to-year basis for up to an additional five(5) years. Prices submitted are to be for each of the first 5 years and there are to be no increases to route pricing until any possible extension is executed.
2. Any potential increases after the original contract are to be limited to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

## **Changes to Service**

The number of regular bus routes and activity routes are not expected to change over the course of the contract, but some services will be upgraded based on requirements of the bidders included in the bid. One of those requirements include the addition of electronic navigation systems in each bus that will allow drivers to more accurately track routes, in real time. Another requirement is that the district reserves the right to design or assign professional development for the bus drivers, allowing them to have a better understanding of how to deal with student management issues. Additionally, the contract will add financial penalties for the contractor if services are not performed within reason.

## **Bids Submitted**

On November 26, 2024, the district held a public bid opening for Student Transportation services. A total of four (4) transportation service providers submitted bids for the upcoming school year.

- Contractors were requested to split their costs into two different sections;
  - Regular routes, including before and after school routes, preschool mid-day routes, and after school activity routes.
  - Alternative route totals only include summer school routes.

Below is the total estimated cost for each vendor.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Regular Routes</b>	<b>Alternative Routes</b>	<b>Total</b>
1st Student	\$1,109,289.04	\$26,609.50	\$1,135,898.54
Cook-Illinois (Grand Prairie)	\$736,511.04	\$8,597.00	\$745,108.04
Safeway	\$2,534,126.15	\$221,327.28	\$2,755,453.43
Compass	\$793,911.36	\$20,150.00	\$814,061.36
<b>Current Contract Amounts</b>			
Cook-Illinois (Grand Prairie)	\$887,855.84	\$11,878.16	\$899,734.00

Additionally, as a part of the final bid submittal, the District asked for an alternate bid that would include the bidder accepting EPA grant funds and increasing the district's electric bus fleet to 11. If this alternate bid was to be accepted, the district would not own the buses, but the transportation company would be required to use them on district routes. Below is the total estimated cost for each alternate bid submitted by each bidder.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Regular Routes</b>	<b>Alternative Routes</b>	<b>Total</b>
1st Student	\$1,271,487.24	\$30,501.00	\$1,301,988.24
Cook-Illinois (Grand Prairie)	\$920,639.44	\$10,746.25	\$931,385.69
Safeway	No Bid Submitted	No Bid Submitted	n/a
Compass	\$888,153.20	\$7,810.00	\$895,963.20