

**Denton Independent School District**  
**Special Education Vehicles Purchase**  
March 23, 2021

**SUMMARY:**

This item requests approval of the quote from Caldwell Country Chevrolet in the amount of \$329,840.00 for the purchase of eight (8) vehicles.

**BOARD GOAL:**

Growth & Management – Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

None

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At the secondary level, ARD (Annual Review and Dismissal) Committee members often create IEP (Individual Education Plan) goals, that focus on Work-Based Learning. As part of the curriculum for these courses, students are given opportunities to volunteer at job sites in the community with goals of paid employment. Teachers and paraprofessionals in the Vocational Adjustment Classrooms (VAC) and in the 18+ Transition Program, locate and organize Work-Based Learning throughout the District in order that the IEP goals are implemented as determined by the ARDC. While at the learning sites students are taught valuable job skills by employers. These important skills can be transferred and generalized to employment once they leave Denton ISD. In 2009, Denton ISD Department of Special Education purchased one (1) vehicle to transport the students from the Transition Center to their job site. At that time, there were only four (4) students in the program. Approximately five years ago, the Transition Center moved from Guyer to the ATC. However, due to the growth at three comprehensive high schools (Braswell, Guyer and Ryan High Schools), the Department of Special Education, in collaboration with the campus administrators and staff, have created an 18+ Transition Centers at each of the aforementioned campuses. Currently, Denton ISD has both the VAC and 18+ Transition Centers at the three high schools. Although Denton HS has the VAC program, their students attend the Transition Center at the ATC. In 2022-2023, that ATC Transition Center will relocate to DHS. In the past, the special education teachers and Secondary Supervisor for Special Education have collaborated with the Department of Transportation to transport students from school to the work site for work-based learning. Although this collaboration has worked; it is not ideal. The Special Education Department is requesting to purchase eight passenger vehicles to transport students to and from their high school campuses for Work-Based Learning. Two vehicles will be assigned to each high school campus to support community learning for students in the Transition/18+ classes and the AVLS students in the VAC program at Denton High School, Guyer High School, Braswell High School, and Ryan High School. Each campus has students enrolled in Work-Based Learning and each student has community-based goals documented in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). The Department is proposing the use of IDEA-B, Federal grant funds to purchase these eight (8) vehicles.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:**

Currently, only the ATC Transition Center students have access to a vehicle for transportation to work sites. That vehicle was purchased in 2009 with ARRA funding. Although the Special Education Department, Transportation Departments and the campuses work together to make attempts for bus transportation for the comprehensive high school campus students, the busy schedule often makes it impossible to secure a bus. This prevents students from accessing their job sites. Because the IEPs include work-based learning goals, students need to remain at the work sites for longer periods of time to continue their learning and skills. Additional vehicles will allow special education students to access their job sites as well as provide transportation to paid employment opportunities. Teachers of these classes will be the drivers; no more than eight (8) students will be in the vehicles as they transport students to their work sites throughout the community. These vehicles will be utilized to allow VAC and 18+ Transition students to participate in Work-Based Learning as well as gain mastery of community-based goals documented in their IEPs which are agreed upon by their parents.

These vehicles will be purchased through a Texas Local Governmental Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard). This purchase is being brought for approval in accordance with the District's CH (local) policy.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The cost will be borne through the 2019-2020 Special Education IDEA-B Consolidated Grant budget.

**BENEFIT OF ACTION:**

The Special Education Department will be able to order and receive the vehicles in a timely manner in which to be able to better serve our students for the 2021-2022 school year.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the quote from Caldwell Country Chevrolet in the amount of \$329,840.00 for the purchase of eight (8) vehicles be approved.

**STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:**

Scott Niven, Chief Financial Officer  
Debbie Gonzales-Roybal, Executive Director of Special Education  
Dianna Casper, Director of Purchasing  
Cathi Robbins, Grants Accountant

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**APPROVAL:**

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_