



**Subject:** Septran Contract Renewal

**Date:** April 15, 2025

The District conducted a transportation services bid in March of 2015 for special education transportation. Septran, Inc. was awarded the contract for these transportation services. Several renewal contracts have been approved since the initial contract with Septran. Effective 2024, School Boards may enter into contracts for any period of time deemed appropriate for the transportation of pupils to and from school.

(105 ILCS 5/29-6.1) (from Ch. 122, par. 29-6.1)

Sec. 29-6.1. Contracts for transportation. Subject to Section 6-106.11 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, school boards may enter into contracts for any period of time deemed appropriate by those school boards for transportation of pupils to and from school; however, no contract, inclusive of any proposed renewals, may exceed 10 years. All contracts for a period of time greater than 5 years that do not include the use of electric vehicles for pupil transportation shall include a termination option after 5 years. Nothing in this Section prohibits contract opener clauses for any purpose from being included in the contract. A contract for pupil transportation that utilizes a significant percentage of electric vehicles may be entered into by a school board for up to 15 years if the contract relies on capital or infrastructure purchases or improvements that cannot reasonably be justified in a shorter-term contract.

(Source: P.A. 103-430, eff. 1-1-24.)

On April 7th, Septran provided the District with the contract renewal rates for the 2025/2026 school year. The rates for special education transportation are proposed to increase 4.0% compared to the current school year. For comparison, last year's renewal was a 6.0% increase over the prior year.

As explained in the letter, multiple factors have impacted the transportation service industry which necessitates this type of increase. For next year (25/26), Septran implemented a 3.5% increase in wages for experienced drivers and monitors. Also, Septran is looking to provide 5 new bus replacements during next school year.

The 2025-2026 renewal letter and updated rate schedule are attached to this write up. If acceptable, this item will be included on the next Board agenda for approval on May 6th.