

## **FOR ACTION**

### **Lisle Community Unit School District No. 202 Board of Education Meeting July 22, 2025**

**SUBJECT:** Board Determined Free Transportation

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Administration recommends that the Board authorize free busing for the 2025–2026 school year for K–12 students residing within 1½ miles of the school attended who must cross a serious safety hazard. Pre-K students will remain eligible to ride the morning and afternoon K–5 routes consistent with this authorization, but mid-day transportation will no longer be provided.

**BACKGROUND DATA:** The State Board of Education requires the District to provide free transportation for students residing at a distance of 1½ miles or more from any school to which they are assigned for attendance. The District MAY also provide free transportation for any students residing within 1½ miles of their assigned school where conditions make walking to or from school a serious safety hazard (ie. crossing a four-lane highway such as Lincoln Ave/Route 53, Maple Ave, Ogden Ave and Yackley Ave). In each of these scenarios, the State will reimburse the School District for a portion of the costs to transport students in grades K-12.

Historically, the District has extended this policy to include Pre-K students; however, beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, mid-day transportation for general education Pre-K students will be discontinued due to financial and operational considerations. Pre-K students will continue to be permitted to ride the regular morning and afternoon K–5 bus routes, using existing standardized stops, in accordance with this policy. The District will no longer operate a dedicated mid-day route for Pre-K students.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** This change eliminates the need to run a separate mid-day route for general education Pre-K students, which previously cost the District approximately \$35,000 annually and was not eligible for state reimbursement. Implementation of this policy for K-12 students does not result in any additional cost to the District.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** That the Board of Education authorize the busing for the 2025-2026 school year for all K-12 students residing within 1½ miles of the school they attend who must cross a serious safety hazard between their legal residence and the school.