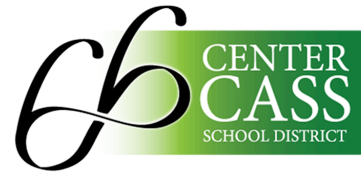


**Tom Tiede, Director of Transportation/Buildings & Grounds**

Center Cass School District 66  
699 Plainfield Road  
Downers Grove, IL 60516



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## Memo

To: Dr. Wise, Superintendent & Board of Education

From: Tom Tiede

Date: 1/14/26

Re: Transportation Fleet Plan for 2026-2027 SY

As previously discussed with the Goal 3 strategic planning group as well as tentatively through Board presentations beginning in November of 2025, I recommend the following fleet plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

Purchase the three 2021 Blue Bird All American 83 passenger school buses scheduled for lease return in July 2026. The balloon payment/buyout for these buses are \$25,000.00 each. Since the buses are in good mechanical condition and are known good assets to the district, it is my recommendation to purchase the three of them as opposed to seeking new leases for the same size buses which would be more than \$30,000 per bus, per year in a new 5 year lease commitment. These purchases would follow our previous years plans of doing more purchasing for ownership as opposed to taking out more leases. These units are bus numbers 2, 5 & 13 with Blue Bird Body #'s F521367, F521368 & F521369.

Since it is traditionally most cost effective for the district to bus outplaced students to other schools, depending on our staffing levels and student loads of outside placements, I may have an amendment to the fleet plan as we forecast those student loads for the 26-27 school year. The amendment could include either purchasing a used mini-bus in place of one of the three full sized purchases listed above OR purchasing a used mini-bus in addition to the three purchases listed above. Using the mini buses for outplaced/special needs students is preferred for their lower cost of operation and ease of size as opposed to the 83 passenger units. If this were to come to fruition based on future forecasting for outplaced students in the next school year, Dr. Wise and I would have a recommendation of any amendment by or before the April 8th Board meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Tiede