



March 23, 2026

To: Dr. Josh Swanson
From: Business Services
Re: Bid Award for Transportation Services

The district has historically utilized contracted transportation services to support specific student populations with unique routing needs. These services include transportation for students experiencing homelessness or high mobility who reside outside of district boundaries but attend Eden Prairie Schools. Contracted transportation has also been utilized for Eden Prairie resident students receiving services at out-of-district specialized programs, including Intermediate District 287, Metro Deaf School, and the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind. Finally, contracted transportation has supported students residing in targeted Minneapolis zip codes associated with the former “Choice Is Yours” program.

To ensure continued service quality and fiscal responsibility, the district issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for these transportation services. The scope of the RFP included five full-size Type C buses to serve Minneapolis-based routes and approximately 40 van routes to support the specialized populations described above.

The district received four (4) proposals for the Type C bus services and fifteen (15) proposals for the van transportation services. The Transportation Department partnered with Catalyst Sourcing to develop the RFP, evaluate submissions, and ensure a thorough and competitive review process.

The primary goals of this process were to reduce overall transportation costs while improving service reliability and customer experience for students and families. Based on the results of the RFP process, the district recommends awarding contracts to the following vendors:

- Metropolitan Transportation Network, Inc (MTN) for five Type C bus routes (Yellow Bus) serving Minneapolis students
- First Alt for Type 3 (Vans) transportation routes

The proposed contracts are for an initial term of two years, with options for renewal. Approval of these contracts will allow the district to maintain necessary transportation services for specialized student populations while achieving improved cost efficiency and service quality.