

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REGARDING TRANSPORTATION RFP

1. Why are you seeking proposals at this time?

The current contract ends as of June 20, 2021, and the district has not solicited proposals in roughly 10 years.

2. Will there be a meeting ("Pre-bid meeting") with all potential interested vendors to discuss questions before proposals are made? Zoom meeting?

No Pre-bid meeting is currently scheduled, however, all questions from bidders will be posted to the district website.

3. Please provide the current 2020-2021 Contract Daily Rates, Trip Rates and Aide Rates

See separate document titled rate sheet.

4. Any flexibility to age of fleet requirements?

No flexibility is permitted in this area.

5. Will the buses and vans be allowed to continue to park at the high school?

Yes.

6. How many spare buses are currently in the fleet?

Our current contractor pulls buses as needed. There is not a specific number of buses assigned solely for Fleetwood. Three extra buses are left by the contractor but they could be pulled at any time.

7. Please provide current Driver Pay Scale and how many employees at each range of pay scale, if available.

We are currently using a contractor for this service, so we do not have the rates of pay for the drivers.

8. How many current runs are there including middays? How many 72 passenger vehicles 48, 30, 9, and Wheelchair? How do size of vehicles align with current runs?

23 - 72 passenger

2 – 48 passenger (1 is wheelchair)

4 – 30 passenger

16 – 9 passenger vans

We do not normally have mid-day runs unless there are early dismissals at our district or outside placements. The vehicle sizes are aligned with the current runs based on the max students on bus listed on the trip detail.

9. Over the last few years, how consistent have the special needs runs been?

Special needs runs have been increasing due to the needs of our students and the appropriate educational setting for each student.

10. Are PM runs same as AM? No PM's listed in Attachment C.

With a few exceptions, all AM runs are the same as the PM runs.

11. How many current runs have driver or assistant vacancies?

All runs are currently staffed by drivers, however, since this is a contracted service, we do not have control over staffing. Any aides required are supplied through a contracted service or in-house staff.

12. Are there any Summer runs? If yes, do any require assistants?

Summer runs are required for ESY as well as out of district placements, if needed.

13. Is there consideration for changing the minimum notice for extra-curricular activities from 24 hours to at least 72 hours?

We can work toward a 72 hour notice, however, we cannot guarantee that this will always be the case as the athletic schedules can change on the fly due to weather issues.

14. Please elaborate on the need for the stop arm cameras- "Additionally, Contractor should have at least two cameras available that can be placed on swingout arms if needed." Does this mean only two total cameras are required and would be used only for buses that are deemed to have "dangerous" stops, or would they be installed on all buses?

We have experienced issues with individuals passing a bus in developments when students are getting off the unit. As such, we would like to have cameras available in the event there is a recurring issue. They just need to be available, not installed on every unit.

15. What is the current structure of the office staff? Fleetwood's transportation support team? Current vendor's support team? (Supervisor, Dispatcher, Maintenance Supervisor, etc?)

District employs one Transportation Coordinator who is in charge of all routing and communication with parents/buildings. Contractor provides a Supervisor who works directly with the Transportation Coordinator to map routes, assign drivers, ensure compliance, and operate effectively and efficiently.

16. In a non-Covid year, approximately how many athletic events and extracurricular activity trips are scheduled and how does the scheduling procedure work?

This varies annually based on student activities, field trips, etc. Below are the number for fall athletics. We are working on getting the other seasons.

Athletics:	Fall 2019	113	Fall 2020	79
	Winter 2019	42	Winter 2020	35
	Spring 2020	1	Spring 2021	83

17. Will district provide PPE for students and assist in the cost of disinfecting vehicles?

District currently provides masks for buses in the event that a student enters without a mask. All disinfecting is the responsibility of the contractor.

18. What is vehicle capacity for runs/trips? HS/MS 72/48 Elementary 72/48- Covid and Post Covid

Students are currently hybrid in the COVID model and are split by alpha with A-L coming Monday & Tuesday, and M-Z coming Thursday and Friday. We have been able to keep most units to no more than 24 students on a unit, with siblings sitting together. In a non-Covid environment, we would prefer to keep 2 students to a seat at all levels. A few runs do have 3 to a seat at the elementary level only.

19. Where is the placement of the 3 cameras in the bus? Are 3 cameras required? It has been our experience that 2 HD cameras provide excellent coverage.

Front, middle, and back of unit.

20. What routing software does the district use, and will our Supervisor be allowed access? General Conditions #1 & #2 – “The District shall exercise sole judgement for the routes and schedules to be maintained by the Contractor” and “The District is to be the sole judge as to whether the contract is being carried out...whether the work is being done effectively and efficiently.” It has been our experience that working in partnership with the District we are sometimes able to provide suggestions that provide better efficiencies and potential cost savings. In addition, considering the current local and national crisis around school bus driver shortage, these conditions as stated would not appear to allow for any collaboration to ensure the safe and timely delivery of students should staff shortages be a reality.

The district is currently using Transfinder’s Routefinder Plus for our routing of students. Access by an outside contractor is something that we would have to discuss based on the individual’s experience with the software as well as experience in the transportation field.

21. General Condition #7 and “Forfeiture” – Please elaborate. For example, in the event a single run cannot be accommodated, what revenue is being proposed to be forfeited by the Contractor? What costs would the Contractor be liable to pay? The entire cost of transportation procured elsewhere, or the difference between the Contractor’s price and the replacement vendor’s price? Please explain the non-compliance fee and how that would be calculated. Is that the \$200.00 per day fee for every run not provided?

Based on the wording in the RFP, the Contractor would be required to pay any amount above the daily rate provided to secure the necessary services. The non-compliance fee would be the rate per day times the number of trips that are unable to be provided by the contractor for the year.

22. Should a "Force Majeure" event occur and the State Legislature of the Commonwealth of PA enact law similar to Act 13 of 2020, requiring LEAs to pay each other what would have been expected under normal conditions, would this legislation override the provisions set forth in the proposal under the "Payment" section? Would the District give any consideration to the Contractor for what are demonstrable fixed costs, including the costs of vehicles and facilities, and any other costs the Contractor is obligated to pay under the terms of enacted legislation?

The Board of School Directors has up to this point only allowed payment for services rendered. If this were to occur, we would suggest a meet and discuss with district administration to come up with a mutually beneficial agreement that will satisfy both parties to be presented to the Board of School Directors for consideration.