

**Transportation RFP - Questions Received  
as of March 8, 2021 by 12:00 p.m.**

1. Does the District anticipate enrollment to increase, decrease or stay the same in the coming years and by what percent?

The District has been declining in enrollment, decreasing 11% over the past four years. We are planning conservative declines over the next few years, approximately 1% per year.

2. Please provide the most recent contract, any addendums, pricing pages and any other contractual updates with the incumbent.

A copy of the current contract will be provided to each vendor that attended the Mandatory Meeting on March 8, 2021.

3. What was the total amount the District paid to the current contractor for transportation services from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019?

The Invoice Summary for the 2018-19 school year was provided during the Mandatory Meeting. A copy of the Invoice Summary will be provided to each vendor that attended the Mandatory Meeting on March 8, 2021.

4. How many days of extended year are there? How many routes?

There are traditionally 20 days of extended school year. The number of routes is dependent upon the students who sign up for the extended school year. Historically, the District has run between 9 - 13 routes for the extended school year.

5. Please provide copies of invoices and detailed billing reports for several months (including activity trips) – suggest Jan and Feb 2020, October 2019.

Copies of the invoices from January 2020, February 2020 and October 2019 will be provided to each vendor that attended the Mandatory Meeting on March 8, 2021.

6. What is the District's student transportation budget for the 2021-22 school year?

The 2021-22 budget will be adopted in June, and will incorporate the award of bid to our selected transportation provider.

7. Please provide the route sheets in excel. We need to determine miles and hours for each route.

A copy of the route sheets in excel will be provided to each vendor who attended the Mandatory Meeting on March 8, 2021.

8. What routing software is currently being used? Does the District own the routing software?

Versatrans is the routing software that is currently utilized.

9. Does the District pay gate to gate?

No, the Request for Proposal indicates the rate is for live hours. The monitors will be paid gate to gate.

10. Is there a CBA for the drivers? If so, please provide.

The district does not have this information.

11. Please share all expenses the contractor will be responsible for regarding the facility.  
The contractor will be responsible for all facility expenses, with the exception of utilities (water, gas, power and waste collection), which are included in the lease. Should the Contractor request use of an electric fleet, the Contractor shall bear all costs and responsibility associated with the power supply and infrastructure.
12. What rent does the incumbent currently pay?  
The current tenant currently pays \$3,440.46 per month.
13. Does the facility include any other amenities such as desks, tools, lifts?  
The facility includes a maintenance shed, but does not include any other amenities as listed in the question.
14. Has there been driver shortage issues?  
There have been driver shortage issues in prior years.
15. How are the District's white fleets currently being maintained?  
The white fleet vehicles are being maintained by the current contractor.
16. Suggest the District consider modifying the pricing to take fixed costs out of the daily rates and create a fixed cost category to be paid monthly.  
No response, this is not a question.
17. What is the current student ride count for each route?  
The ride counts were provided in the route specifications, which were provided during the Mandatory Meeting on March 8, 2021. A copy of the route specifications will be provided to each vendor who attended the meeting.
18. Are the service hours based on live time or gate to gate?  
The Request for Proposal indicates the rate is for live hours. The monitors will be paid gate to gate.
19. Can you clarify if the district facility will be available or not? It is important to know as we calculate the costs of deadhead time and mileage.  
The district facility will be available beginning August 1, 2021. A separate agreement between the District and the Contractor who is awarded the transportation services will be required in order to use the facility.
20. Can you post the list of pre proposal meeting attendees?  
A list of attendees will be sent to each vendor who attended the mandatory meeting on March 8, 2021.
21. Did the District compensate the incumbent during COVID?  
The district paid compensation, through a one-time state grant, to the incumbent during the 2019-20 school year.
22. What are the current driver wages ?  
The district does not have this information.
23. If there are too many trip in a given day for the required fleet, how are additional trips handled?  
Office managers at school sites can contact other vendors.

24. Is district requiring last 3 years of School Bus terminal satisfactory rating in California locations?

No, the District will not require 3 years of School Bus terminal satisfactory rating in California.

25. Suggest the District require 3 years of yellow school bus experience.

This is not a question.

26. Please provide an example lease for the optional parking/maintenance facility.

A draft copy of the lease for the optional parking/maintenance facility will be provided to each vendor who attended the mandatory meeting on March 8, 2021.

27. For the special education transportation, do you require to be yellow school buses? or can be provide with our company logo and colors?

For purposes of this RFP, the buses must be school buses.

28. Could you please provide pictures of the interior of the facility?

A picture of the interior of the maintenance shed will be provided to each vendor who attended the mandatory meeting on March 8, 2021.

29. Will the District consider modifying the pricing to take fixed costs out of the daily rates and create a fixed cost category to be paid monthly.

No, the District will not modify the pricing structure.

30. Will bidders receive a list of the attendees from the mandatory call today?

A list of attendees will be sent to each vendor who attended the mandatory meeting on March 8, 2021.

31. Will District reconsider the securement of oxygen bottles? These are normally attached to student equipment if needed. CHP would have to approve the securement if on a bus.

No, the District will not reconsider the securement of oxygen bottles. While the District does not currently transport students with oxygen bottles, should that be a requirement based on future need, Contractor will be required to safely and securely transport the oxygen bottle. If required by the contractor as a safety protocol, the contractor may indicate that securement of oxygen bottles on a bus will be subject to CHP inspection and approval.

32. Was previous contract pricing based on live time as well or was it yard to yard in previous years?

The previous contract was for live hours for the routes. Monitors were paid gate to gate.

33. Will District consider a minimum and maximum increase in addition to the CPI-U for pricing?

No, District will not consider a minimum or maximum increase in addition to the CPI for pricing.

34. Will District consider language for mutual termination for convenience?

No, the district will not consider mutual termination for convenience.

35. Will District consider renegotiation language if routes increase or decrease by 10% or if calendar operating days decrease 10%?

The District will not be adding language at this point, but would be open to future conversations if there are material changes in routing.

36. Does the district want a breakout of maintenance cost by vehicle given the responsibility of maintenance cost is responsibility of contractor?

Maintenance records should be available to the District upon request.

37. Is electronic signature acceptable

An electronic signature is acceptable for the proposal documents. The actual contract will require original signatures. Refer to Amendment #1.

38. States that the district operates 12 Home-To-School routes and 6 Special Ed routes. Can you please provide a breakdown of the [anticipated] minimum size bus needed for each route and if more than 1 vehicle is utilized for any of the routes?

Vendors should refer to the route specifications provided during the mandatory meeting. A copy will be provided to each vendor who attended the mandatory meeting.

39. Will the District find it beneficial if the Contractor has the capability of offering coach bus options for use in Field Trips and/or Athletics in addition to standard school buses?

Contractors may provide pricing for other types of buses on the Pricing Quotation Form under Other Service Sizes, Types, Rates.

40. Seatbelt Requirements: May Contractor utilize approved aftermarket integrated child safety seats?

All child safety seats must adhere to all federal, state and local laws and regulations concerning the transportation of pupils.

41. Additional Safety Measures: May Contractor receive a grace period to install two-way radios on newly acquired vehicles (mid-term) so long as active communication is maintained between driver/vehicle and base through other means?

No, the District will not grant a grace period. All vehicles must be fully equipped.

42. Wheelchair Vehicles: How many total wheelchair buses are expected?

Vendors should refer to the route specifications provided during the mandatory meeting. A copy will be provided to each vendor who attended the mandatory meeting. The number of wheelchair vehicles needed can vary year to year and is based on the needs of the current students enrolled.

43. Lift-Equipped Buses: Will the District consider vehicles with under-storage lifts so long as they are DOT/CHP approved?

Yes, the district would consider right side mounted or under storage lifts as long as the provider can show proof of approval by the Department of Transportation and California Highway Patrol. Refer to Amendment #1.

44. Wheelchair Securement: Will the District consider alternative securement systems so long as they are DOT/CHP approved?

Wheelchair securement systems must meet DOT Federal Motor Safety Standards (FMVSS) as indicated in the RFP.

45. Parking: What is the proposed lease amount for the lot adjacent to A.E. Wright Middle School?  
The proposed lease amount is \$3,500 per month for the 1st year of the separate parking lease agreement.
46. Drivers and Monitors/Aides: How many monitors and/or aides are required? Will properly trained drivers suffice in lieu of monitors/aides?  
Vendors should refer to the route specifications provided during the mandatory meeting. A copy will be provided to each vendor who attended the mandatory meeting. The number of monitors/aides needed can vary year to year and is based on the needs of the current students enrolled. Any monitor/aide serving district students must be properly trained.
47. Request the ability to use School Pupil Activity Bus drivers for field trips and athletics transportation as is required by law.  
Contractors may provide pricing for other types of buses on the Pricing Quotation Form under Other Service Sizes, Types, Rates.
48. Insurance: Proposer requests General and Auto Liability Insurance Minimums to be set at \$5M each which is the legal mandate and often requested amount.  
No, the district will not consider lowering the minimum insurance requirement.
49. Will the District consider waiving Performance Bond mandate in exchange for Liquidated Damages?  
No, the district will not consider waiving the Performance Bond.
50. Will the District consider waiving or reducing Bid Bond requirements for certified small businesses wishing to bid on this contract?  
The district is adjusting the bid bond requirement through an addendum. The addendum will be provided to all vendors who attended the mandatory meeting on March 8, 2021.
51. As the district is requiring very specialized vehicles for this services agreement (Newer Year Models, CNG, Rear Engine, A/C, etc.) and procuring such specific vehicles in a limited time frame may prove challenging due to availability, will the District consider Transit vehicles with a max capacity of 71-75?  
No, the District will not consider transit vehicles with lower capacities, please reference RFP for school bus capacity requirements. However, the District may consider school buses that meet the required bus capacity that are fueled by alternate power sources with a vehicle replacement for CNG school buses. Vehicle replacement plan will be subject to District approval. Vehicle replacement plan must include dates of implementation for which the required vehicles will be placed into service. Refer to Amendment #1.
52. What is the expected formula to determine "Minimum Buses Required" for "Route Buses" in the pricing matrix?  
The district requests the vendors to indicate the number of buses that they would have available for each type of bus.
53. Can a program other than Versatrans be utilized for routing?  
A program other than Versatrans is permitted as long as it is not a proprietary program and it is approved by the District prior to implementation. If a program other than Versatran is utilized the contractor must provide access to the district and to any transportation services consultant the district uses. Refer to Amendment #1.

54. 2.2.5.5 Is this in addition to services expressed in this agreement or in lieu of services expressed in this agreement? If in lieu of services already expressed in this agreement, then it would appear this agreement isn't binding to any of the services being requested.

This section allows the district to enter into separate service agreements. As indicated in the RFP, the district uses alternate forms of transportation for non-public school routes, some country school routes and some special education routes. Additionally, the district may use other agreements for field trips and/or athletic trips. Should the vendor fail to provide the required home-to-school (general education transportation) the district would be allowed to enter into separate agreements in order to ensure the students are transported to schools.

55. 2.6.1.1 Will the District consider a Tier 3 Level fleet so long as an expeditious phase-in plan has been put into place to move into Tier 2 or Tier 1 with Liquidated Damages in place should the Contractor not meet expected deadline(s)?

A vehicle replacement plan will be subject to District approval. Vehicle replacement plan must include dates of implementation for which the required vehicles will be placed into service. Refer to Amendment #1

56. 2.6.1.1 According to NSTA Green Fleet Certification, CNG buses hold the same clean fleet fuel score as Propane and Gasoline. Along with Electric, is it safe to assume that these fuel/energy sources will be acceptable as well?

Refer to Amendment #1 to the Request for Proposal referring to Section 2.6.3 of the Contract.

57. 2.6.1.1 Will the District consider Front Engine vehicles? If not, what is the ultimate goal in providing Rear Engine buses only? NOTE (not part of the question): A large portion of new buses, especially electric and other low emission vehicles are Conventional/Front Engine only.

The District requires rear engine buses for 78 - 82 passenger transit size vehicles. If the Contractor proposes to use front engine buses, the District must be consulted and the District must approve the use of such buses. Contractors who have an exception to the RFP should note it in their proposal. Refer to Amendment #1 to the Request for Proposal referring to Section 2.6.3 of the Contract.

58. Will the District consider altering the Liquidated Damages Schedule?

The district plans to keep the existing liquidated damages schedule.

59. Confirming the District will NOT provide guaranteed payment on days that were intended to operate services but were cancelled by the District due to Acts of God, Epidemic, Pandemic, etc.?

Refer to Amendment #1.

60. Will the District provide weighted consideration for entities Certified as a Small Business and/or Minority Owned Business?

The score sheet is included in the RFP.

61. What was the performance rate (late buses, no show buses, lack of availability, etc.) of the previous company in school years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020? If a rate is not available please give a subjective rating of Exceptional, Satisfactory, Less Than Satisfactory, or Poor.

The district does not have a rate available.

62. What annual amounts in Liquidated Damages were charged to the previous company servicing this contract.

The liquidated damages amounts charged were less than \$500.

63. Question- 30 pax and 30 pax plus 4 w/c buses are these going to be required per the RFP? Based on ridership it doesn't appear these are needed. Is it up to the contractor to bid on the types of buses needed to fulfill the routes published? This type of configuration would require a conventional bus in lieu of the smaller Type A buses regularly utilized for this type of service. They typically will handle 24 pax or 6 pax plus 2 to 3 w/c's. This would add substantial cost to the district.

Please provide pricing for these services, even if they are not currently needed. The route specifications for special education will be provided to each vendor who attended the mandatory meeting on March 8, 2021. Although the current route specification is not a guarantee of future needs, it is a guide that can be used to determine the types of services that will likely be needed.

64. In addition to school buses and vans, would the district be interested in cost-effective alternative transportation methodologies utilizing SUVs and Sedans to support smaller groups of students (for covid safe rides, smaller clubs or teams like golf, debate or robotics) on an as-needed basis?

The district already contracts with alternate transportation vendors.

65. To be the most price competitive and cost-effective transportation solution, our pricing is not based on a traditional bus route per hour pricing model. Rather, our pricing is a base price fee + a per-mile fee. May we adjust the proposal to reflect our pricing structure to ensure that the cost is evaluated appropriately?

All vendors should respond based on the Pricing Quotation Form.

66. Does this RFP also cover McKinney-Vento and/or IEP students? If not, will the district be releasing an Alternative Transportation RFP covering such students in the near future?

The district already contracts with alternate transportation vendors. The district has no plans for an alternate transportation RFP in the near future.