

Zūm Questions Regarding RFP for In-District Student Transportation Services

1. When does PSD anticipate providing responses to submitted questions?
 - a. **Responses to submitted questions will be issued via formal addendum and posted on the District website no later than four (4) days prior to the proposal submission deadline, in accordance with the RFP requirements.**

2. Will the bid opening on May 8, 2026 at 10:05 AM EST be a public bid opening? If so, what information will be shared and can we attend in-person?
 - a. **Yes, the bid opening will be conducted as a public opening at the specified time and location. Vendors may attend in person. At the opening, only the names of respondents will be publicly read. Pricing and detailed proposal contents will not be discussed at that time, as proposals are subject to evaluation.**

3. Will PSD consider accepting electronic bid submissions?
 - a. **No. At this time, PSD requires physical submission of proposals in accordance with the RFP. A USB copy is required as a supplement, but it does not replace the hard copy submission requirement.**

4. Will PSD consider waiving the performance bond? Bonds can substantially drive up cost and increase the overall pricing. Therefore, it is more cost-efficient to evaluate vendors' historical performance in lieu of a performance bond.
 - a. **No change at this time. The RFP outlines that a performance bond may be required as a condition of award. Vendors should plan accordingly and include required documentation demonstrating bondability.**

5. Will PSD consider a bid bond in lieu of a cashier's check, certified check, or money order?
 - a. **No. Proposal security must be submitted in the form specified in the RFP (cashier's check, certified check, or money order). Alternative forms such as bid bonds will not be accepted.**

6. Per the Proposal Submission Requirements, "One (1) USB with full proposal (PDF) Technical and Cost proposals must be separated." For the physical original and copy submission, should bidders separate the Technical and Cost proposals into different binders labeled "Technical Proposal" and "Cost Proposal" or can the Technical and Cost proposals be submitted together in the same binder for each required original and copy? If the physical copies of the Technical and Cost proposals should be separated, please confirm if one original and five copies are needed for the Technical proposal and if one original and five copies are needed for the Cost Proposal.

- a. **Technical and Cost proposals must be clearly separated. For hard copy submissions:**
- **Submit one (1) original and five (5) copies of the Technical Proposal**
 - **Submit one (1) original and five (5) copies of the Cost Proposal**
These may be submitted in separate binders or clearly separated sections, but must be distinctly labeled “Technical Proposal” and “Cost Proposal.”
7. Per the RFP, Section 9.2, “Minimum of three (3) references from prior contracts and two (2) current contracts.” Can the District please clarify if a minimum of three or five total references are required?
- **Vendors must provide a minimum of five (5) references total, consisting of:**
 - **Three (3) references from prior contracts**
 - **Two (2) references from current contracts**
8. Will PSD please confirm whether the total limits required for AL insurance is \$11,000,000 or \$21,000,000?
- a. PSD requires:
- **\$1,000,000 Auto Liability (CSL)**
 - **\$10,000,000 Umbrella/Excess Liability**
- This results in a total coverage expectation of \$11,000,000, not \$21,000,000.**
9. Per the RFP, hard copy submissions should be delivered to “286 Main Street, PO Box 388, Pawtucket, RI 02860.” As FedEx is unable to deliver to a P.O. Box, can the District please provide a different address for delivery of our proposal package?
- a. **For hand delivery or courier (FedEx/UPS), proposals should be delivered to:**
- Pawtucket School Department
Attn: Dr. Mark Andrade
286 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860**
- (The P.O. Box is for USPS mailing only.)**

10. Are dedicated buses required for field trips and athletic trips or can route buses be used for this work?
- No, dedicated buses are not required for field and athletic trips, provided they do not interfere with home-to-school routes.**
11. The pricing form references 35-passenger buses. Industry-standard Type A buses typically accommodate up to approximately 30 passengers. Type B buses (accommodating 30-50 passengers) have been discontinued by manufacturers in the U.S. with the exception of electric buses. May we bid Type A 29-passenger buses, or are you looking for 35-passenger Type C buses?
- Yes, Type A 29-passenger buses are acceptable for bidding.**
12. Does the school district or local municipality, etc. own or are party to any properties that may be suitable for the contracted school bus operations that they could lease or make available to operate the service? If so, can you provide details?
- No, the district does not have any property available for lease.**
13. The RFP does not include information regarding the district's current fleet composition. (i.e. amount of Type As, amount of Type Cs.) To ensure an accurate and responsive proposal, please provide a comprehensive fleet breakdown of bus types by passenger capacity (e.g., 65-passenger, 77-passenger, etc.)
- The district currently utilizes Type C (71-passenger) school buses for all standard routes. Wheelchair buses range from two to four wheelchair configurations.**
14. How many wheelchair-accessible buses and liftequipped units are needed?
- There are currently 12 buses that accommodate wheelchairs.**
15. Please provide a breakdown of route counts by fleet type.
- There are 51 total routes: 39 full size buses and 12 wheelchair buses**
16. Regarding the Bid Submittal Form, should bidders provide pricing inclusive of Monitors in the Transportation rates that specifically says it includes bus Aides/Monitors, or should bus aides/monitors be priced separately in Item G?
- Monitors and aides are included in the pricing.**
17. How many bus monitors/aides are required for this work?
- A monitor is required on all routes.**
18. How many pre-school & kindergarten mid-day runs are there?
- There are currently six midday routes.**

19. How many special services AM/PM inter-school transfers are there?
 - a. **No transfers are allowed.**
20. Please confirm special services AM/PM inter-school transfers are for only 20 days.
 - a. **No transfers are allowed.**
21. What are the live hours for special services AM/PM inter-school transfers?
 - a. **No transfers are allowed.**
22. How many summer school routes are there? Please provide the number of GE and Sped routes separately, and which buses are used.
 - a. **Summer routes have not yet been established and are based on funding.**
23. How many athletic and field trips are expected annually?
 - a. **There were approximately 200–250 field trips last year. Information on sports trips is not currently available.**
24. What is the estimated total annual live mileage currently driven across all routes?
 - a. **Information not available.**
25. Are home-to-school routes and field trips/activity trips billed for live time or gate to gate?
 - a. **Billing is calculated from gate to gate.**
26. The RFP states the intent to retain existing drivers where qualified. Please provide a copy of the current contractor's CBA.
 - a. **The district does not employ drivers.**
27. What are the current wage rates for drivers and bus monitors/aides?
 - a. **Information not available, as the district does not employ drivers.**
28. Please provide the current driver and aide/attendant guaranteed hours to ensure fair and equitable compensation.
 - a. **Information not available, as the district does not employ drivers.**
29. The Bid Submittal form is for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Please confirm Year 1 is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.
 - a. **The contract start date is July 1, 2026.**
30. To support fair and comparable pricing, please share current and historical pricing from the prior five years. This will ensure that proposals are structured on a fully comparable basis.

- a. **Information not available.**
31. Please provide a copy of the current contract.
- a. **See Attached.**
32. Please provide the past three months' invoices from the current transportation vendor, including a breakdown by service category (e.g., monitors, home-to-school transportation, midday routes, field trips, etc.).
- a. **Information not available.**
33. Please describe any service issues or pain points with the current provider(s).
- a. **None at this time.**
34. What are the annual liquidated damages over the last two to three years for the areas described in the RFP?
- a. **Information not available.**
35. Are there any driver or monitor shortages? If so, how many?
- a. **Not at this time.**
36. Please provide average route lengths (in miles and minutes) for home-to-school transportation.
- a. **Information not available.**