

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Transportation Bid Specifications  
Summary of Contract Changes  
(As approved by the Worcester School Committee, December 18, 2014)

The student transportation contracts will expire on the last day of school in June 2015. The Administration recommends the attached specifications for the next contract for a term of five years from June 2015 – June 2020.

The significant changes from the previous bid specifications included in this recommendation include:

General:

- Consolidation of Regular Education and Special Education into one large contract. Historically, before 2005, the Worcester Public Schools transportation services for both large buses and special education buses were done through a single contract. In 2005, the market conditions at the time allowed for greater competition if the contracts were separated. In fact, two different vendors provided large bus and special education transportation in the 2005-2010 contract. Given the results of that contract, the same contract methodology was again used in the present 2010-2015 contract. Given the significant contraction in the number of vendors that could provide the level of service required over the past decade, the Administration recommends that the contracts be again combined in order to achieve operational and administrative savings that can then be reflective in the most competitive bid price. Even under a combined contract, we anticipate that there will be several national vendors that will be able and willing to bid on the large contract at highly competitive pricing.
- Removes Athletic and Field Trip Transportation from this contract. The Administration recommends the bid for athletic and field trip transportation services after the award of the attached contract. The Administration believes there would be a competitive price advantage by conducting a separate bid for these services.
- Minor change in mid-size bus seat configuration to reflect actual assignment pattern,

Vehicles:

- Add language that requires all mid-size and wheelchair buses to be equipped with working air conditioners.
- Add requirement that twelve large buses be equipped with same integrated child restraint system as included on midsize and wheelchair buses in order to accommodate needs of Head Start transportation.
- Add requirement for the use of electric block heaters or other mechanical means when outside temperatures reach freezing or below for all diesel vehicles.

- Add requirement that all vehicles be equipped with drop-down tire chains to be used when weather conditions require their use.
- Requires contractor to supply the Worcester Public Schools with three programmed two-way radios (portable hand held with charger and extra battery per unit) with all frequencies used in connection with the operation of this contract so the WPS can monitor school bus operations and activities.
- Requires all vehicles used in connection with this contract with a 2016 model year or later must be equipped with a factory installed high-visibility seat belt for the bus driver. All other vehicles must be equipped with a high visibility seat belt cover.

Video System:

- Requires the contractor to use the same four camera recording system as used by the Worcester Public Schools for consistency and compatibility reasons.
- The Administration has included real-time GPS tracking on all buses and the ability to add real-time video access on several vehicles (to be rotated as needed). Emerging technologies and associated costs have significantly changed in the past five years.

Personnel:

- Changes language on the prohibition of employment of any operator who has tested positive for alcohol and/or drug use, and/or has had his/her driver's license suspended or revoked for alcohol or drug related offenses, and/or has been convicted for operating any vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs from ten years to at any time while they have possessed a driving license of any kind.
- Adds the requirement that all drivers and monitors must complete the Statewide Applicant Fingerprinting Identification Service background check.

Other:

- Adds languages that clarifies that transportation for early release purposes shall be considered to be included in the base bid pricing, including high school final exam schedule in June.

There is no change in the method of pricing from a fixed rate per day contract based upon the conclusion of School Bus Consultants report dated January 7, 2015.

Anticipated Bid Opening Date: January 28, 2015