

Ventnor City

Board of Education

Atlantic

County

2026-2027

School Year

Bid Specifications

for

Student Transportation Services

To and From School

Bid Number: 2027-3

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Specifications

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Specification for Student Transportation Services To and From School

Ventnor City Board of Education

2026-2027 School Year

General Provisions

1. All contractors must comply with current applicable New Jersey statutes, regulations and with the policies and procedures of the district board of education governing student transportation.
2. The term of the contract will be from September 1 through June 30 according to the school calendar. Student transportation contracts include all the rules and procedures pertaining to student transportation though not expressly stated.
3. The Board of Education intends to award a contract for transportation as soon as possible after the date set for the opening of bids and to require the successful contractor to provide transportation in accordance with the school calendar. The attached school calendar is part of these specifications and of the contract.
4. The successful bidder is considered an independent contractor and is not an agent, servant, employee, or representative of the board of education.
5. As authorized by the district board of education, only enrolled eligible public and private school students, adults serving as chaperones or school personnel can be transported. The vehicle(s) assigned to the routes specified herein cannot be utilized for other purposes during the time periods designated by the route descriptions.
6. Vehicle(s) must arrive and/or depart the assigned school(s) as indicated on the enclosed route descriptions.

7. No transportation contract can be subcontracted without the prior written approval of the board of education.
8. Bids are to be placed in a sealed envelope and plainly marked, **“Bid for Student Transportation Services, Ventnor City School District”** and presented to the board in session, authorized committee, designated official or employee of the board. The board or designated official will unseal the bids in the presence of the parties bidding and publicly announce the contents. Bids will be received at the Ventnor City Board of Education Business Office, located at **400 N. Lafayette Avenue, Ventnor City** up to **10:00AM** prevailing time on **August 25, 2026**.
9. If awarded a contract, your company/firm must ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations and certify such compliance to the board of education upon request.
10. The Board of Education reserves the right to transfer transportation contracts awarded under these specifications to another Board of Education.
11. If any litigation commences between the Board of Education and the successful bidder pursuant to the award of this contract, the venue for any suit must be in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, in the county where the Board of Education administering the contract is located.

Vehicles

1. Transportation equipment must be properly registered by the Motor Vehicle Commission, meet all current specifications in accordance with Federal and State law, the rules of the State Board of Education, and any additional specifications of this district's board of education.
2. All vehicles must be systematically inspected twice within the school year and display a school bus certification inspection sticker to ensure that such vehicles and equipment are in safe and proper operating condition.
3. The contractor must provide and maintain an adequate number of school buses, including spares, to safely transport all students assigned to the routes contained in this bid and to assure uninterrupted service in the event of mechanical breakdown.

Accident Reporting

Contractors must ensure that every school bus driver will: a) immediately inform the principal(s) of the receiving school(s) and the school business administrator or designee of the district board of education providing the transportation following an accident which involves an injury, death, or property damage, b) complete and file the accident report as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education and deliver it to the principal(s) of the receiving school(s) by the conclusion of the next working day, and c) deliver the report to the school business administrator or designee of the district board of education providing the transportation after it is signed by the principal(s) of the receiving school(s) in accordance with NJAC 6A:27-12.2. In addition, the driver must also complete and file a motor vehicle accident report in accordance with NJSA 39-4:130.

Reporting Student Left Unattended on the School Bus

Every owner/operator of a school vehicle must immediately inform the administrator or principal of the receiving school and the chief school administrator of the district board of education providing for the transportation or their designee following an incident in which it is determined that a student was left

unattended on the school bus at the end of the route. School district or school bus contractor personnel who discover, or to whom it is reported, that a student has been left on a school bus must immediately report the incident to the owner/operator of the vehicle. A student is considered to have been left unattended on the school bus at the end of the route when the driver has left the vicinity of the bus.

Drivers/Aides

1. The driver must be a reliable person of good character who possesses the qualifications and communication skills necessary to perform the duties of the position, and comply with the rules set forth for drivers in all federal, state and local regulations including, but not limited to, the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act, NJSA 18A:6-7.6 through 18A:6-7.12 and NJSA 18A:39-17 through 20 (background check) (Note: This requirement also applies to Certified Mobility Assistance Vehicle (MAV) Technicians transporting students with medical needs to and from school or school related activities in mobility assistance vehicles.), and tuberculosis testing.
2. If a student assigned to a special education route is not present at the assigned bus stop for three consecutive days, the contractor must report this absence to the district transportation supervisor.
3. The bus driver must always be in full charge of the school bus and is required to report unmanageable students to the district transportation supervisor and principal of the receiving school on the district prescribed incident/discipline form.
4. A bus aide assigned to a route awarded by this bid must be a reliable person of good character who possesses the qualifications and communication skills necessary to perform the duties of the position and is required to comply with the criminal background check and tuberculosis testing as prescribed by law.
5. Bus aides must attend to the special needs of students, maintain order on the vehicle to ensure the safety of all students, assist students getting on and off the vehicle as needed, and other duties which may be specified by the board of education.
6. If the Board of Education finds any driver or aide assigned to a vehicle operating under a contract awarded by this bid to be unsuitable for the position because of a lack of skills necessary to

perform the job duties, inability to control students, failure to comply with the rules and regulations, incapacity, unbecoming conduct, or other good cause, the contractor may be required to remove the driver and/or aide from the route or all district routes. If the contractor fails to comply with this provision, the contractor may be required to show cause why this failure to comply is not deemed to constitute a breach of contract and may set aside and annul the contract.

Executive County Superintendent Approval

All transportation contracts require the approval of the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

Payment Terms

1. Payments to contractors will be made on or about the **31st day** of the month. Payments are made in monthly installments, provided an appropriate invoice is submitted **by the end of the first full week of the month.**
2. The contractor must execute the contract and submit it to the district board of education with all required related documents for the district board of education to comply with the timeline for submission of contracts to the county superintendent. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the scheduled payment of services. Contractors should visit the Department of Education's Student Transportation website to become familiar with the contract to be executed.
3. Payment for the month of June will be made by **July 31st**.
4. Per Diem contracts will be calculated on the actual number of days transportation services were performed.
5. Payments are subject to approval by the board of education. Therefore, payments may be delayed depending on the Board's meeting schedule.

Emergency Provisions

1. In the event the school is closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies, the contractor will be notified as soon as possible by the public-school authorities providing transportation. Contractors are also advised to check online for school closing announcements.
2. In an emergency where the contractor cannot meet the schedule, or if the school has a change in schedule, the party responsible for any change must immediately notify the other party.

Basis of Bid and Adjustments

1. The bidder must submit the bid on the bid sheet contained in these bid specifications. Bids are submitted on a per diem or per annum basis as indicated on the enclosed bid sheet. Other bid sheets are not acceptable.
2. If there is a change in the described route, the amount of the contract will be adjusted as specified in the bid. Bids which do not include an adjustment amount will not be accepted.
3. The net result of any mileage adjustment to a nonpublic school transportation contract cannot exceed the maximum cost per student in accordance with NJSA 18A:39-1a. Calculations to determine the per student cost must include all students on the route, public and nonpublic.

Insurance Coverage

1. Unless otherwise specified by the board of education, the contractor must provide automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount required by the Motor Vehicle Commission and Department of Education regulations. If the board of education requires an insurance coverage greater than the minimum amount, the contractor must provide automotive liability insurance in the amount of **\$1,500,000** combined single limit per occurrence. Bidders are required to provide, with the bid, evidence of their ability to obtain the required insurance coverage. A certificate of insurance for the duration of the contract must be presented by the successful bidder. The

certificate of insurance must state that the contracting board of education is an additional insured party to the policy.

2. The district board of education and the Executive County Superintendent must be notified by the insured whenever any policy is cancelled. Notification must be made within 48 hours of the receipt of the notification of the cancellation by the insured, and before the cancellation takes effect.
3. The contractor will protect, defend, and hold harmless the Board of Education from any lawsuits or actions of every nature and description brought against it for, or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any party or parties by or from any acts of the contractor, its servants or agents as a result of the performance of the contract.

Bid Guarantee

1. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid bond, cashier's or certified check for a minimum of **five percent (5%)** unless a greater percentage is specified by the board for **five percent (5%)** of the amount of the annual contract cost. In no case may the certified check, cashier's check or bid bond exceed \$50,000. No other form of guarantee is authorized. This guarantee must be made payable to the Board of Education. The deposit will be forfeited if the bidder refuses to execute a contract. Otherwise, checks will be returned when the contract is executed and a surety (performance) bond is filed with the Board of Education. The bid guarantee is identified by the bid number assigned to the bid for which it is submitted. The bid guarantee for all unsuccessful bidders, except for the three lowest bidders, will be returned within 10 days after the bid opening (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted). The annual contract amount of per diem contracts is calculated by multiplying the total per diem cost by **180** days. (actual # of days in school calendar or 180 days)
2. Each bid must be accompanied by a Consent of Surety.

Performance Guarantee

A corporate performance surety bond in an amount equal to the annual amount of the contract is required of the successful bidder. The performance guarantee is identified by the submitted multi-contract number or route number. Each bid must be accompanied by a signed Prescribed Form of Questionnaire, included in these specifications. The bond provided for per diem contracts must be equal to the total per diem bid multiplied by 180 days (actual # of days in school calendar or 180 days).

If personal bonds are permitted by these specifications, a contractor who submits a personal bond must ensure that the bondsperson providing the performance guarantee provides a list of all school districts in which they are bonding contracts and the amount of the contracts bonded. Evidence of the value of the property listed as security must also be provided upon request.

Breach of Contract/Penalties

In the event the contractor fails to provide service in accordance with these specifications and stated requirements, the contractor will be considered in breach of contract. This may result in cancellation of the contract and/or enforcement of contractor's performance bond.

1. In the event that the contractor does not perform any route under contract, a penalty will be assessed as follows:

<u>First route not performed:</u>	<u>Cost of emergency contracted bus plus one day's contract amount for the route (per diem rate)</u>
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<u>Second (and subsequent):</u>	<u>Cost of emergency contracted bus plus two days contract amount for the route (Double diem rate)</u>
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2. In the event the contractor does not comply with the arrival and departure times listed, the following penalties will apply:

<u>1st and 2nd Occurrence</u>	<u>Verbal Warning</u>
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<u>3rd Occurrence</u>	<u>Written Warning</u>
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<u>4th and subsequent Occurrence</u>	<u>Contractor will be fined \$50.00 per occurrence</u>
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Training Programs

1. The contractor must ensure that drivers and aides are properly trained to perform their duties, which must include, at a minimum, the training requirements listed at NJSA. 18A:39-19.1a and NJAC 6A:27-11.3. This training requirement must be completed twice each calendar year.
2. The contractor must administer a safety education program for all permanent and substitute drivers and bus aides according to NJSA 18A:39-19.1a and NJAC 6A:27-11.3 twice each calendar year.
3. Drivers and aides are required to participate in scheduled school bus evacuation drills.

Routes

Within 10 days of the start of the contract, the contractor must submit to the district board of education a description of the actual streets traveled for routes for the transportation of special education students and nonpublic school students for which the streets to be traveled are not described by the board of education on the route description contained in the bid.

Modifications

1. Any modifications to these specifications after the public advertisement for bids and prior to the scheduled bid opening, will be made known by certified mail to all bidders who requested specifications.
2. The Board of Education reserves the right to make modifications of routes subject to the provisions of the bid and the rules of the State Board of Education.

Affirmative Action

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative or workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and will post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to employ minority and women workers consistent with the applicable county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27 5.2, or a binding determination of the applicable county employment goals determined by the Division, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

In conforming with the applicable employment goals, the contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor must submit to the public agency, after notification of award but prior to execution of a goods and services contract, one of the following three documents:

1. Letter of Federal Affirmative Action Plan Approval
2. Certificate of Employee Information Report
3. Employee Information Report Form AA302

The contractor and its subcontractors must furnish such reports or other documents to the Division of Contract Compliance & EEO as requested by the office from time to time to carry out the purposes of these regulations. Public agencies will furnish such information as requested by the Division of Contract Compliance & EEO to conduct a compliance investigation pursuant to Subchapter 10 of the Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 17:27.

Ownership Disclosure

All bidders are hereby notified that every corporation and partnership, according to the provision of Chapter 33, Laws of 1977 of the State of New Jersey, must submit a statement prior to the receipt of the bid or accompanying the bid, setting forth the names and addresses of all stockholders in the corporation or partnership who own 10% or more of its stock, of any class or of all partners in the partnership who own a 10% or greater interest. If one or more such stockholder or partner is itself a corporation or partnership, the stockholders holding 10% or more of that corporation's stock, or the individual partner's 10% or greater interest in that partnership must also be listed. The disclosure continues until names and addresses of every non-corporate stockholder, and individual partner, exceeding the 10% ownership criteria established in this act, has been listed.

Business Registration

All bidders are hereby notified that every business organization must submit with their bid a copy of their Business Registration Certificate, in compliance with P.L. 2004, c 57 of the State of New Jersey.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

If awarded a contract, your company/firm is required to certify to the board of education that you follow the drug and alcohol requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act.

Background Checks

1. The contractor must ensure compliance with the requirements of NJSA 18A:39-17 through 20 governing criminal history background checks and must annually submit required documents to the county superintendent of schools on or before August 31 or upon employment for newly hired drivers.
2. The contractor must ensure compliance with the requirements of NJSA 18A:6-7.6 through 12 governing child abuse and sexual misconduct checks. Additional information on this requirement is available from the Office of Student Protection's "[Pre-Employment Resources](https://www.state.nj.us/education/crimhist/preemployment/)" webpage:
<https://www.state.nj.us/education/crimhist/preemployment/>.

Driver and Aide Training

The contractor must comply with the requirements of NJSA 18A:39-19.1a, 2, and 3 governing the training of school bus drivers and aides and must annually submit required documents to the county superintendent of schools on or before August 31 or upon employment for newly hired drivers and/or aides.

Disclosure of Political Contributions

The contractor must file an annual disclosure statement on political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission pursuant to NJSA 19:44A-20.13 (P.L. 2005, c.271, s.3) if the contractor receives contracts in the aggregate exceeding \$50,000 from public entities in a calendar year. It is the contractor's responsibility to determine if filing is necessary. Additional information on this requirement is available from ELEC at 888-313-3532 or at www.elec.state.nj.us.

Maintenance of Contract Records

The relevant records of private vendors or other persons entering into contracts with covered entities are subject to audit or review by the Office of the State Comptroller pursuant to NJSA 52:15C-14(d). The contractor must maintain all documentation related to products, transactions, or services under this contract for a period of five years from the date of final payment. These records must be available to the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller upon request.

Notification Required when a School Bus Driver's License is suspended or revoked

When a contractor providing pupil transportation services under contract with a board of education is notified by the Department of Education that a school bus driver employed by the provider has had their bus driver's license suspended or revoked, the employing transportation provider, within one business day of the notification, must provide a statement to the NJ Department of Education verifying that the school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the board or contractor.

The following documents must be submitted for your bid to be considered:

1. Bidder's Guarantee
2. Business Registration Certificate
3. Evidence of the Bidder's Ability to Obtain the Required Insurance Coverage
4. Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act Compliance Assurance
5. School Bus Driver Annual Certification Compliance Assurance
6. Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran
7. Non-involvement in prohibited activities in Russia or Belarus
8. Prescribed Questionnaire
9. Consent of Surety
10. Statement of Ownership Disclosure
11. Coordinated Transportation Services Agency Membership Form (CTSA only)
12. Affirmative Action Documentation or Questionnaire
13. Non-Collusion Affidavit
14. Bid Sheet