



Student Transportation Services

Best Value Procurement Evaluation Report

Request for Proposals for Student Transportation Services

Board Evaluation Packet

Prepared for the Board of Education
Independent School District No. 378
Dawson-Boyd Public Schools
July 13, 2026

This report provides objective information regarding each proposal received in response to the District's Request for Proposals for student transportation services. It is intended to support the Board of Education and the evaluation committee by organizing proposal information using the published Best Value evaluation criteria.

The report does not include evaluator scores, proposer rankings, or a contract award recommendation. Those responsibilities remain with the three-member evaluation committee and the Board of Education following completion of the independent evaluation process.

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Purpose of the Report

This report was prepared to support the Dawson-Boyd Board of Education's review of proposals submitted in response to the Request for Proposals for student transportation services. It organizes proposal information according to the published Best Value evaluation criteria and provides a consistent factual reference for the evaluation committee and the Board of Education.

The report promotes transparency, consistency, and informed decision-making throughout the procurement process. It summarizes information contained within each proposal, identifies topics that may benefit from additional discussion before contract execution, and presents side-by-side comparisons of significant operational and contractual elements.

The report does not assign evaluator scores, rank proposers, or recommend a contract award. Those responsibilities remain with the three-member evaluation committee and the Board of Education following completion of the independent evaluation process.

The report is organized to move from a broad overview of the procurement process to detailed information regarding each proposal. Board members may read the report sequentially or use the table of contents to locate specific topics.

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Report Conventions

The following conventions are used throughout this report to promote consistency and provide a common understanding of how proposal information is presented.

- Proposal information is organized according to the evaluation criteria published in the Request for Proposals.
- Proposal summaries are based on the materials submitted by each proposer.
- References to additional discussion identify topics that may benefit from clarification before contract execution. These references should not be interpreted as deficiencies.
- All proposers are presented using the same organizational structure.
- The report is informational and does not assign scores, rank proposers, or recommend a contract award.

Confidentiality and Intended Use

This report was prepared for use by the Dawson-Boyd Board of Education and the evaluation committee in connection with the procurement of student transportation services. It is intended to provide objective information supporting the procurement process and should be considered together with the submitted proposals and related procurement documents.

Executive Summary

Dawson-Boyd Public Schools issued a Request for Proposals to secure student transportation services beginning with the 2026–2027 school year. The objective of the procurement is to identify a transportation partner that provides safe, reliable, and fiscally responsible service while supporting the educational mission of the District.

Three proposals were received in response to the Request for Proposals. This report organizes the information contained within those proposals using a consistent framework so that each submission may be reviewed objectively and compared using the same published evaluation criteria.

Following an independent review by the three-member evaluation committee, a recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education for consideration during the contract award process.

Report Scope

This report presents objective information regarding each proposal submitted in response to the District's Request for Proposals for student transportation services. It summarizes proposal information using the published Best Value evaluation criteria and is intended to support the work of the evaluation committee and the Board of Education.

The report does not assign evaluator scores, rank proposers, or recommend a contract award.

Procurement Overview

Procurement Summary

Item	Information
Procurement	Student Transportation Services
Procurement Method	Best Value Request for Proposals
Contract Period	July 15, 2026 through June 30, 2031
Proposal Due Date	July 9, 2026
Evaluation Committee	Three-member administrative committee
Board Consideration	July 13, 2026
Proposals Received	Three

Best Value Procurement Methodology

The District selected a Best Value procurement process to evaluate proposals using published criteria that consider service quality, safety, operational capacity, employee transition, fleet quality, technology, financial stability, compliance with the Request for Proposals, and overall value. Price is an important consideration but is evaluated alongside the operational and service factors that contribute to successful long-term transportation services.

Evaluation Criterion	Weight
Service Quality and Operational Plan	20%
Driver Recruitment, Retention and Transition	15%
Safety Program and Student Management	10%
Fleet Quality and Reliability	10%
Experience, References and Financial Stability	10%
Compliance with the Request for Proposals	10%
Technology and Communication Systems	5%
Facilities and Implementation	5%
Fleet Purchase Proposal	5%
Insurance and Risk Management	5%
Cost and Overall Value	5%

Procurement Process Timeline

Date	Activity
June 2026	Request for Proposals issued
June 2026	Vendor questions and facility visits
July 9, 2026	Proposal submission deadline
July 13, 2026	Evaluation committee review and development of recommendation
July 13, 2026	Board consideration of contract award
July 15, 2026	Contract commencement (anticipated)

Proposals Received

Proposer	General Description
4.0 School Services	Regional transportation contractor
Reliant Transportation Group / Minnesota Coaches	Full-service transportation management provider
Tyler Bus Service / Full Warranty Bus Leasing	Regional transportation provider with fleet acquisition proposal

Evaluation Framework

Each proposal is presented using the same organizational structure to promote consistency, facilitate comparison, and support an objective evaluation process.

Section	Purpose
Company Overview	Introduces the proposer and summarizes organizational background.
Operations	Describes the proposed service delivery model, staffing, and operational approach.
Fleet, Safety, and Technology	Summarizes fleet management, maintenance, safety practices, and technology resources.
Financial and Contract Information	Summarizes pricing, facilities, insurance, fleet acquisition, and contract assumptions.
Administrative Observations	Provides an objective administrative synopsis of the proposal and identifies topics that may benefit from additional discussion.
Proposal Documentation	Lists the principal documents submitted with the proposal.

Comparative Overview

Three proposals were received in response to the District's Request for Proposals for student transportation services. Each proposer offers a comprehensive transportation solution, but the proposals differ in operational approach, implementation strategy, technology, fleet acquisition, and organizational emphasis. This overview is intended to orient the reader before the detailed proposer profiles. It is descriptive only and is not an evaluation or recommendation.

Company	4.0	Reliant / Minnesota Coaches	Tyler / Full Warranty
Business model	Regional contractor	Transportation management	Regional provider
Operational emphasis	Core service delivery	Implementation and systems	Local continuity
Employee transition	General commitment	Detailed transition plan	Retention focused
Fleet acquisition	FMV after inspection	Proposal included	Specific purchase offer
Technology	General references	Comprehensive platform	Operational tools
Facilities	District lease	District facility use	District facility use
Pricing	Five-year schedule	Five-year schedule	Five-year schedule

Decision Considerations

The purpose of this section is to identify the broader considerations that support the Board of Education's review of the evaluation committee's recommendation. These considerations are not evaluation criteria and should not be interpreted as additional scoring factors. Rather, they provide governance context for the Board as it determines which proposal offers the greatest overall value to Dawson-Boyd Public Schools.

The Best Value procurement process recognizes that selecting a transportation provider involves more than comparing costs. Long-term operational success depends upon the provider's ability to deliver safe,

reliable, and responsive transportation services while supporting the District's educational mission and demonstrating responsible stewardship of public resources.

As the Board reviews the proposals and the evaluation committee's recommendation, the following considerations may assist in framing the discussion.

Long-Term Financial Sustainability

Student transportation represents one of the District's most significant operational expenditures. The selected proposal should demonstrate value throughout the life of the contract while balancing service quality, operational reliability, and responsible use of public funds.

The Board may wish to consider not only the proposed pricing, but also the assumptions supporting that pricing, anticipated annual adjustments, fleet ownership implications, and the overall financial structure of each proposal.

Service Reliability

Reliable transportation directly supports student attendance, instructional time, extracurricular participation, and family confidence. A successful transportation partnership depends upon consistent daily operations, effective communication, and the ability to respond to changing operational needs.

The Board may wish to consider each proposer's approach to routing, staffing, dispatching, substitute driver availability, and operational oversight.

Employee Transition

Transportation employees possess valuable knowledge regarding routes, student needs, community relationships, and District operations. A thoughtful transition plan can help preserve that knowledge while supporting continuity of service during implementation.

The Board may wish to consider each proposer's strategy for communicating with employees, supporting onboarding, and maintaining operational stability throughout the transition period.

Fleet Strategy

The Request for Proposals invited proposers to address acquisition of the District's existing transportation assets. Decisions regarding fleet ownership affect long-term maintenance responsibilities, replacement planning, capital investment, and operational flexibility.

The Board may wish to consider how each proposal addresses fleet acquisition, maintenance responsibilities, replacement planning, and future investment in transportation equipment.

Technology

Modern transportation systems increasingly rely on technology to support routing, communication, safety, reporting, and operational efficiency. While technology alone does not determine service quality, it can improve communication with families, provide operational data, and support informed decision-making.

The Board may wish to consider the technology resources proposed by each proposer together with the District's long-term operational needs.

Implementation Readiness

Successful implementation requires careful planning before the beginning of the school year. Transition activities may include employee onboarding, route verification, fleet preparation, technology implementation, communication with families, and coordination with District administration.

The Board may wish to consider each proposer's readiness to assume responsibility for transportation services within the proposed implementation timeline.

Partnership

Although transportation services are provided through contract, the selected provider becomes an extension of the District's educational program. A successful partnership is characterized by open communication, responsiveness, accountability, and a shared commitment to serving students and families.

The Board may wish to consider how each proposer describes its approach to collaboration with District administration and responsiveness to changing operational needs throughout the contract term.

Proposer Profiles

The following profiles summarize the proposals submitted in response to the District's Request for Proposals for student transportation services. Each profile is organized using a consistent framework to support objective review and facilitate comparison by the evaluation committee and the Board of Education.

The information presented is based on the proposal materials submitted by each proposer. References to additional discussion identify topics that may benefit from clarification before contract execution and should not be interpreted as deficiencies. These profiles do not assign scores, rank proposers, or recommend a contract award.

4.0 School Services

Category	Information
Headquarters	Minnesota
Business Model	Full-service contracted student transportation
Proposed Contract Term	Five years with an optional extension
Fleet Acquisition	Fair market value following independent inspection
Facility Proposal	Lease of District transportation facility for \$1.00 annually
Pricing Structure	Five-year schedule with annual escalation

Company Overview

4.0 School Services submitted a proposal to provide comprehensive student transportation services for Dawson-Boyd Public Schools. The proposal presents an established transportation provider serving multiple Minnesota school districts and describes an operating philosophy centered on dependable service, preventive maintenance, and responsive customer support. The submission includes organizational background information, client references, a five-year pricing schedule, and a proposal to lease the District's transportation facility while purchasing the existing fleet following an independent valuation.

Operations

The proposal describes responsibility for routing, dispatching, driver supervision, customer service, and daily transportation operations. It emphasizes collaboration with District administration and expresses an interest in retaining existing transportation employees where practical. Additional discussion regarding implementation planning, employee transition, and local startup activities would provide further understanding of how services would transition to Dawson-Boyd Public Schools.

Fleet, Safety, and Technology

The proposal emphasizes preventive maintenance, vehicle inspections, and regulatory compliance. Technology resources are referenced, although additional discussion regarding routing software, GPS, onboard camera systems, parent communication tools, and reporting capabilities would provide greater clarity regarding the proposed operating environment. The proposal includes an offer to purchase District transportation assets following an independent fair market valuation.

Financial and Contract Information

The proposal includes a five-year pricing schedule together with a facility lease proposal and references insurance coverage. Additional documentation regarding insurance coverage and fleet valuation methodology would assist in confirming contractual details before implementation.

Administrative Observations

The proposal reflects an experienced transportation provider with an established presence in Minnesota. The submission includes client references, structured pricing, and an approach to fleet acquisition that aligns with the Request for Proposals. Additional discussion regarding implementation planning, employee transition, technology resources, fleet documentation, insurance documentation, and valuation methodology would provide greater clarity before contract execution.

Proposal Documentation

Documentation Included
Organizational profile
Client references
Five-year pricing schedules
Fleet acquisition proposal
Facility lease proposal

Reliant Transportation Group / Minnesota Coaches

Category	Information
Headquarters	Minnesota
Business Model	Full-service transportation management
Proposed Contract Term	Five years
Fleet Acquisition	Proposal submitted
Facility Proposal	Continued use of District facilities as proposed
Pricing Structure	Five-year pricing schedule

Company Overview

Reliant Transportation Group, operating in partnership with Minnesota Coaches, submitted a comprehensive proposal describing a full-service transportation management model. The proposal presents detailed information regarding operations, staffing, technology, implementation, and safety practices while emphasizing long-term partnerships with Minnesota school districts.

Operations

The proposal outlines a detailed operational approach addressing routing, dispatching, customer service, driver supervision, scheduling, extracurricular transportation, and communication with District administration. Significant attention is given to implementation planning, continuity of service, employee recruitment, onboarding, training, and retention.

Fleet, Safety, and Technology

Fleet management, preventive maintenance, driver qualifications, safety training, and regulatory compliance are described in considerable detail. Technology includes routing software, GPS vehicle tracking, onboard camera systems, driver communication tools, operational reporting, and communication resources for District staff and families.

Financial and Contract Information

The proposal includes pricing for regular route transportation, special education transportation, activities, field trips, and additional services identified in the Request for Proposals. Insurance information, implementation planning, and fleet acquisition information are also included.

Administrative Observations

The proposal presents a comprehensive transportation management approach supported by detailed operational planning, employee transition strategies, technology resources, and established safety procedures. Additional discussion regarding final fleet valuation methodology and selected contractual assumptions would provide additional clarity before contract execution.

Proposal Documentation

Documentation Included
Organizational profile
Client references
Implementation plan
Employee transition plan
Technology overview
Safety program documentation
Fleet acquisition proposal

Five-year pricing schedules
Insurance documentation

Tyler Bus Service / Full Warranty Bus Leasing

Category	Information
Headquarters	Minnesota
Business Model	Regional student transportation provider
Proposed Contract Term	Five years
Fleet Acquisition	Approximately \$437,000 purchase proposal, subject to proposal terms
Facility Proposal	Continued use of District facilities
Pricing Structure	Five-year pricing schedule

Company Overview

Tyler Bus Service, in partnership with Full Warranty Bus Leasing, submitted a proposal emphasizing local service, operational continuity, and long-standing experience providing student transportation in western Minnesota. The proposal includes organizational background information, pricing schedules, fleet acquisition information, maintenance practices, and a proposal to purchase the District's transportation fleet.

Operations

The proposal describes daily transportation operations, routing, dispatching, customer service, driver supervision, and communication with District administration. Particular emphasis is placed on local management, familiarity with the region, and continuity of service.

Fleet, Safety, and Technology

The proposal describes preventive maintenance, fleet inspections, regulatory compliance, and maintenance practices intended to support reliable transportation services. Technology resources are identified within the proposal, although they receive less emphasis than operations and maintenance. The proposal includes a specific purchase offer for the District's transportation fleet.

Financial and Contract Information

The proposal provides pricing for regular route transportation, special education transportation, activity transportation, and additional requested services. It also includes information regarding fleet acquisition, contractual assumptions, and insurance coverage.

Administrative Observations

The proposal emphasizes local service, operational continuity, and regional experience while presenting a clearly defined fleet acquisition proposal. Additional discussion regarding technology resources, implementation milestones, and selected contractual assumptions would assist in confirming operational expectations before contract execution.

Proposal Documentation

Documentation Included
Organizational profile
Client references
Fleet acquisition proposal
Maintenance program information
Five-year pricing schedules
Insurance documentation

Comparative Analysis

This section compares the proposals submitted in response to the District's Request for Proposals using the published Best Value evaluation framework. Its purpose is to organize comparable information in a consistent format to support the independent review of the evaluation committee and the Board of Education. The information presented is descriptive, based on the submitted proposals, and does not assign scores, rank proposers, or recommend a contract award.

Service Delivery and Operations

Each proposer demonstrated the ability to provide comprehensive student transportation services, including regular route transportation, special education transportation, activity transportation, and related services.

Reliant Transportation Group / Minnesota Coaches presented the most detailed implementation narrative, including transition planning, staffing, communication, and administrative oversight. Tyler Bus Service / Full Warranty Bus Leasing emphasized local management, continuity of service, and regional experience. 4.0 School Services described a structured operating model focused on dependable daily operations and collaboration with District administration.

Employee Recruitment and Transition

All three proposers expressed an interest in working with existing transportation employees.

Reliant provided the most detailed discussion of recruitment, onboarding, training, and retention. Tyler emphasized continuity of service and retaining local staff. 4.0 expressed a commitment to employee retention while providing fewer implementation details regarding transition planning.

Fleet Management and Maintenance

Each proposal includes a strategy for maintaining safe and reliable vehicles. 4.0 emphasized preventive maintenance and proposed purchasing District-owned assets following an independent valuation. Reliant described documented maintenance procedures integrated into a comprehensive management system. Tyler emphasized maintenance practices, inspections, and regional fleet support while providing a defined fleet purchase proposal.

Safety

Student safety is a consistent priority across all three proposals. Each references driver qualifications, vehicle inspections, regulatory compliance, and preventive maintenance. Reliant provides the greatest level of procedural detail, Tyler emphasizes operational reliability, and 4.0 focuses on maintenance and compliance.

Technology

Technology represents one of the more significant distinctions among the proposals. Reliant describes a comprehensive technology platform that includes routing software, GPS tracking, onboard camera systems, communication tools, and operational reporting. Tyler identifies technology that supports day-to-day operations while emphasizing local service delivery. 4.0 references technology resources but provides less detail regarding specific systems and implementation.

Financial and Contract Structure

Each proposer submitted a five-year pricing schedule addressing the requested transportation services. All three proposals include a fleet acquisition component, although each approaches fleet ownership differently. The committee's evaluation of value should consider both pricing and the operational assumptions accompanying each proposal.

Facilities

Each proposer anticipates continued use of the District's transportation facilities. 4.0 proposes leasing the facility for one dollar annually. Reliant and Tyler both anticipate continued use of District facilities consistent with their operating models.

Overall Comparison

The proposals reflect three distinct approaches to student transportation. 4.0 emphasizes dependable operations, structured pricing, and fleet acquisition through independent valuation. Reliant emphasizes comprehensive transportation management supported by detailed implementation planning, technology, employee transition strategies, and operational systems. Tyler emphasizes regional experience, local management, continuity of service, and a defined fleet acquisition proposal. The evaluation committee's responsibility is to determine which proposal provides the greatest overall value using the published Best Value criteria.

Comparative Summary

Evaluation Area	4.0 School Services	Reliant / Minnesota Coaches	Tyler / Full Warranty
Operations	Structured operating model	Comprehensive management model	Local operational model
Employee Transition	General commitment	Detailed transition planning	Continuity and retention focus
Fleet Strategy	Independent valuation	Fleet acquisition proposal	Defined purchase proposal
Safety	Maintenance and compliance	Comprehensive safety systems	Maintenance and operational reliability
Technology	General references	Extensive technology platform	Operational technology tools
Facilities	\$1 annual lease	Continued facility use	Continued facility use
Pricing	Five-year schedule	Five-year schedule	Five-year schedule

Procurement Process Conclusion

The procurement process was designed to provide a fair, transparent, and consistent method for evaluating proposals for student transportation services. Each proposer received the same opportunity to review the Request for Proposals, submit questions, and provide a proposal for consideration.

The evaluation committee will complete an independent review using the published Best Value criteria and develop a recommendation for the Board of Education. The Board will consider the committee's recommendation together with the complete procurement record before determining whether to award a contract.

This report has been prepared to support a fair, transparent, and informed procurement process. It is intended to serve as a factual reference for the evaluation committee and the Board of Education as they review the submitted proposals and determine which proposer offers the greatest overall value to Dawson-Boyd Public Schools in accordance with the District's Request for Proposals and published Best Value evaluation criteria.