

FARMINGTON CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #265

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

NEW 83-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS

GASOLINE, PROPANE, OR DIESEL

Farmington Central Community Unit School District #265 is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of **one (1) new 83-passenger yellow school bus**.

The District will consider **gasoline, propane, and diesel-powered buses**. Vendors are encouraged to submit pricing for multiple fuel options when available.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed school bus shall:

- Be **new and unused**.
- Have a rated capacity of approximately **83 passengers**.
- Be a **Type D/front-engine transit-style school bus**, or District-approved equivalent.
- Be powered by **gasoline, propane, or diesel**.
- Meet or exceed all current applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
- Meet all current **State of Illinois school bus requirements** at the time of delivery.
- Successfully complete the required Illinois school bus inspection prior to delivery.
- Be fully licensed, titled, inspected, equipped, and **route-ready** at the time of delivery.
- Include all equipment necessary for legal operation as an Illinois school bus.
- Include all standard manufacturer safety equipment.
- Be National School Bus Yellow with a white roof and required school bus markings.

The District will consider equivalent or superior equipment. Any exceptions, substitutions, or deviations from these requirements must be clearly identified in the bid.

2. FUEL AND POWERTRAIN

The District will accept bids utilizing any of the following fuel types:

- **Gasoline**
- **Propane**
- **Diesel**

Vendors may submit bids for one or more fuel types.

For each proposed vehicle, the bidder shall provide:

Fuel Type: _____

Engine Manufacturer/Model: _____

Horsepower: _____

Torque: _____

Transmission: _____

Fuel Tank Capacity: _____

GVWR: _____

All engines, fuel systems, transmissions, and related components must meet current federal and Illinois requirements applicable to school buses.

3. CHASSIS AND DRIVETRAIN

The bus shall include:

- Heavy-duty chassis appropriate for an 83-passenger school bus
- Automatic transmission
- Power steering
- Tilt and telescoping steering wheel
- Heavy-duty front and rear suspension
- Front and rear shock absorbers
- Appropriate heavy-duty braking system
- Electronic stability control
- Cruise control
- Front and rear tow hooks or equivalent
- Heavy-duty commercial school bus tires
- Engine block heater where applicable
- Battery disconnect

- Adequate charging system for all installed equipment
- Appropriate cold-weather starting equipment for Illinois operating conditions

The bidder shall identify the axle ratings, GVWR, tire size, and other major chassis specifications included with the proposed vehicle.

4. BODY AND CAPACITY

The body shall be designed and constructed for regular daily school transportation service and shall include:

- Approximately **83-passenger capacity**
- Type D/front-engine transit-style configuration
- Minimum interior headroom appropriate for a full-size transit school bus
- Heavy-duty school bus body construction
- Insulated ceiling, sidewalls, and applicable body areas
- Heavy-duty subfloor and commercial-grade rubber flooring
- Non-skid entrance steps
- Appropriate rub rails and exterior body protection
- Electric outward-opening entrance door
- Rear emergency exit
- Required emergency roof hatches
- Required emergency push-out windows
- Required emergency exit alarms
- Tinted passenger windows
- Driver's sliding window
- Appropriate windshield and windshield wiper system

All body construction shall meet applicable federal and Illinois school bus standards.

5. PASSENGER AND DRIVER SEATING

The bus shall include:

- High-back passenger seating
- Passenger seating meeting all current federal and Illinois requirements
- Passenger seats prepared for required restraint systems
- Appropriate seat spacing for an 83-passenger configuration
- Heavy-duty adjustable driver's seat
- Driver's armrest

- Driver storage area
- Driver cup holder
- Appropriate driver's barrier

The bidder shall provide a **body floor plan/seating layout** with the bid.

6. HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

The vehicle shall be equipped for year-round operation in Illinois and shall include:

- Full-width windshield defrosting system
- Driver heating system
- Passenger compartment heating sufficient for the size of the bus
- Front and rear heating as appropriate
- Auxiliary circulation/booster equipment as necessary
- **Factory-installed or manufacturer-approved air conditioning capable of adequately cooling the entire passenger compartment**
- Driver-area air conditioning
- Cleanable or replaceable heater/air-conditioning filters where applicable

The bidder shall identify the capacity and configuration of the heating and air-conditioning systems.

7. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The bus shall include all safety equipment required by the State of Illinois, including, but not limited to:

- Eight-way school bus warning light system
- Electric stop arm with lights
- Electric crossing control arm
- Roof-mounted strobe light
- Back-up alarm
- Emergency roof hatches
- Emergency push-out windows
- Rear emergency door
- Emergency exit alarms and indicators
- First aid kit
- Body fluid clean-up kit
- Reflective warning triangles

- Fire extinguisher
 - Required reflective markings
 - Required emergency exit identification
 - All required mirrors and cross-view mirrors
 - Heated exterior mirrors
 - Interior rear-view mirror
 - Noise suppression switch, if applicable
 - All other safety equipment required for Illinois school bus operation
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8. LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL

The vehicle shall include:

- LED exterior lighting where commercially available and appropriate
 - LED clearance and marker lights
 - LED stop/tail lights
 - LED turn signals
 - LED back-up lights
 - Interior passenger dome lighting
 - Driver dome light
 - Stepwell lighting
 - Passenger boarding light
 - Exterior electrical access panel
 - Locking battery compartment
 - Adequate electrical capacity for all installed equipment
 - Pre-wiring or appropriate electrical provisions for District communication equipment
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9. COMMUNICATION AND DRIVER EQUIPMENT

The bus shall include:

- AM/FM audio system
- USB and/or current equivalent audio connectivity
- Public address system
- Interior speakers
- Exterior PA speaker
- Provisions for installation of the District's two-way radio system
- Appropriate driver controls and instrumentation
- Speedometer
- Odometer

- Engine hour meter
 - Fuel level indicator
 - Engine temperature monitoring
 - System warning lights and alarms
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10. EXTERIOR STORAGE

The District prefers adequate exterior storage/luggage capacity for school activities and extracurricular transportation.

The bidder shall describe the exterior storage compartments included with the proposed vehicle:

11. PAINT, LETTERING, AND IDENTIFICATION

The bus shall include:

- National School Bus Yellow exterior
- White roof
- Black trim and rub rails
- Required reflective materials
- Reflective "SCHOOL BUS" identification front and rear
- Required Illinois school bus lettering and decals
- District identification on both sides:

"FARMINGTON C.U.S.D. #265"

- District-assigned bus numbers in locations specified by the District
- All required emergency exit, capacity, and safety markings

Final lettering and numbering shall be approved by the District prior to delivery.

12. WARRANTY

The bidder shall provide complete copies or descriptions of all applicable warranties, including:

- Chassis warranty

- Engine warranty
- Transmission warranty
- Body warranty
- Paint/corrosion warranty
- Air-conditioning warranty
- Emissions system warranty, if applicable
- Fuel system warranty, if applicable
- Roadside assistance or towing coverage, if applicable

Chassis Warranty: _____

Engine Warranty: _____

Transmission Warranty: _____

Body Warranty: _____

Other Warranty: _____

13. SERVICE AND PARTS

The District will consider the availability and proximity of warranty service, routine maintenance, and replacement parts when evaluating bids.

The bidder shall provide:

Nearest Authorized Service Facility:

Location:

Approximate Distance from Farmington, Illinois:

Parts Availability/Support:

The bidder should identify any routine maintenance requirements unique to the proposed gasoline, propane, or diesel powertrain.

14. DELIVERY

Delivery shall be made to **Farmington Central CUSD #265, Farmington, Illinois**, at a location designated by the District.

The vehicle must be **route-ready upon delivery**.

The bid price shall include:

- Vehicle preparation
- Delivery to Farmington, Illinois
- Initial Illinois school bus inspection
- Illinois inspection sticker
- Title
- License
- All required equipment
- All applicable preparation and documentation fees
- All other charges necessary to place the vehicle into service

The District will not pay additional delivery, preparation, inspection, title, licensing, or documentation fees unless specifically disclosed in the original bid.

Estimated Delivery Date: _____

15. BID PRICING

Vendors are encouraged to provide pricing for **each fuel configuration available**.

GASOLINE

Manufacturer/Model: _____

Model Year: _____

Engine: _____

Total Delivered Price: \$ _____

Estimated Delivery Date: _____

PROPANE

Manufacturer/Model: _____

Model Year: _____

Engine: _____

Total Delivered Price: \$ _____

Estimated Delivery Date: _____

DIESEL

Manufacturer/Model: _____

Model Year: _____

Engine: _____

Total Delivered Price: \$ _____

Estimated Delivery Date: _____

16. OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

The bidder may separately identify recommended optional equipment that is not included in the base bid.

Optional Equipment	Additional Cost
_____	\$ _____
—	
_____	\$ _____
—	
_____	\$ _____
—	

_____ \$ _____
—

Optional equipment pricing shall **not** be included in the base bid unless specifically stated.

17. EXCEPTIONS AND ALTERNATES

The District intends these specifications to describe the type and quality of vehicle desired without unnecessarily restricting competition.

Equivalent or superior equipment will be considered.

The bidder shall clearly identify **all exceptions, substitutions, or deviations** from this Request for Bid.

Exceptions/Alternates:

Failure to identify an exception may be interpreted by the District as confirmation that the proposed vehicle complies with the applicable requirement.

18. BID EVALUATION

Farmington Central CUSD #265 reserves the right to select the bid determined to provide the **best overall value to the District**.

Factors considered may include:

- Total purchase price
- Fuel type
- Estimated fuel and operating costs
- Maintenance requirements
- Warranty coverage
- Expected vehicle service life
- Parts availability

- Availability and proximity of authorized service
- Vehicle configuration and equipment
- Compliance with specifications
- Exceptions or substitutions
- Fuel infrastructure requirements
- Estimated delivery date
- Overall suitability for District transportation operations

The District is not obligated to accept the lowest-priced bid.

19. VENDOR INFORMATION

Name of Firm: _____

Manufacturer Represented: _____

Name of Representative: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Authorized Agent: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

20. BID SUBMISSION

Sealed bids must be received by:

Bid Due Date: **October 7, 2026**

Bid Due Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Bid Location:

Farmington Central Community Unit School District #265

Farmington, Illinois

The outside of the sealed envelope shall be clearly marked:

"SEALED BID – 83-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS"

Bids received after the stated deadline may not be considered.

21. DISTRICT RIGHTS

Farmington Central Community Unit School District #265 reserves the right to:

- Accept or reject any or all bids.
- Waive minor irregularities or informalities.
- Request clarification of any bid.
- Consider equivalent or superior equipment.
- Consider delivery time, warranty, service, operating costs, and other factors in addition to purchase price.
- Select the fuel type and vehicle configuration determined to be in the District's best interest.
- Accept the bid determined to provide the best overall value to the District.
- Cancel or modify the solicitation when determined to be in the District's best interest.

Submission of a bid constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of these conditions unless exceptions are specifically stated in writing by the bidder.