

FARMINGTON CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #265

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

NEW 14-PASSENGER TYPE A ACTIVITY BUS

GASOLINE – WHITE EXTERIOR

Farmington Central Community Unit School District #265 is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of **one (1) new 14-passenger Type A activity bus**.

The vehicle must be **new, gasoline-powered, and white**.

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed vehicle shall:

- Be **new and unused**.
- Be a **Type A activity bus/MFSAB or equivalent vehicle meeting applicable requirements**.
- Have seating for **14 passengers**, in addition to the driver.
- Be **gasoline powered – NO EXCEPTIONS**.
- Have a **WHITE exterior – NO EXCEPTIONS**.
- Be equipped with dual rear wheels.
- Meet or exceed all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
- Meet all applicable State of Illinois requirements for the vehicle's intended use.
- Be fully serviced and inspected prior to delivery.
- Be fully licensed, titled, equipped, and ready for immediate District use upon delivery.
- Include all standard manufacturer safety equipment.

The District will consider equivalent or superior equipment from multiple manufacturers.

Any exceptions, substitutions, or deviations from these specifications must be clearly identified in the bid.

2. CHASSIS AND POWERTRAIN

The vehicle shall include:

- New current-model-year or newer chassis
- Gasoline engine
- Heavy-duty automatic transmission
- Dual rear wheels
- Heavy-duty chassis appropriate for a 14-passenger activity bus
- Power steering
- Heavy-duty front and rear suspension
- Front and rear shock absorbers
- Four-wheel anti-lock braking system
- Heavy-duty cooling system
- Factory cruise control
- Tilt steering wheel
- Heavy-duty alternator
- Heavy-duty battery system
- Appropriate commercial-grade all-season radial tires
- Adequate fuel tank capacity for regular District transportation
- Appropriate exhaust and heat shielding
- Complete wheel alignment following vehicle construction

The bidder shall provide:

Chassis Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Model Year: _____

Engine Manufacturer/Model: _____

Engine Displacement: _____

Horsepower: _____

Transmission: _____

GVWR: _____

Fuel Tank Capacity: _____

Tire Size: _____

3. BODY AND CAPACITY

The vehicle shall include:

- **14-passenger seating capacity**
- Type A activity bus body
- Dual rear-wheel configuration
- Commercial-grade passenger body construction
- Adequate interior headroom for adult passengers
- Reinforced passenger safety cage/body structure
- Side-impact protection
- Corrosion-resistant body construction
- Insulated passenger compartment
- Heavy-duty subfloor
- Commercial-grade rubber flooring
- Appropriate rub rails/body protection
- Complete undercoating and corrosion protection
- Rear mud flaps
- Rear emergency exit
- Required emergency push-out windows
- Roof emergency hatch
- Appropriate exterior storage/luggage compartment

All body construction shall meet applicable federal requirements for the vehicle being proposed.

The bidder shall include a **body floor plan and seating layout** with the bid.

4. EXTERIOR COLOR AND APPEARANCE

WHITE EXTERIOR – NO EXCEPTIONS

The complete exterior body shall be **white**.

The vehicle shall also include:

- Durable commercial-grade exterior paint
- Corrosion-resistant paint preparation
- Appropriate black or manufacturer-standard trim
- District lettering as specified by Farmington CUSD #265
- District-assigned vehicle number, if requested
- All legally required identification, decals, and markings

This vehicle is intended to be used as a District activity vehicle and **shall not be painted National School Bus Yellow.**

5. PASSENGER SEATING

The vehicle shall have seating for **14 passengers in addition to the driver.**

Passenger seating shall include:

- Forward-facing passenger seats
- High-back or coach-style activity seating
- Individual passenger seat belts meeting applicable requirements
- Durable commercial-grade upholstery
- Appropriate seat spacing
- Padded barriers or modesty panels where appropriate
- Fire-block or equivalent padded header protection above applicable doors

Passenger Capacity: 14 – NO EXCEPTIONS

The bidder shall provide a seating diagram showing the proposed configuration.

6. DRIVER AREA

The driver's area shall include:

- Adjustable high-back driver's seat
- Driver shoulder/lap restraint
- Driver armrest
- Factory heating and air conditioning
- Windshield defroster
- Tilt steering wheel
- Cruise control
- Intermittent windshield wipers
- Sun visor
- Interior rear-view mirror
- Complete instrument cluster
- Driver storage area
- Cup holder

Instrumentation shall include appropriate monitoring of:

- Vehicle speed
 - Mileage
 - Fuel level
 - Engine temperature
 - Oil pressure or warning system
 - Charging system
 - Vehicle warning systems
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7. ENTRANCE AND EMERGENCY EXITS

The vehicle shall include:

- **Electrically operated passenger entrance door**
- Adequate entrance-door opening for safe passenger loading and unloading
- Entrance handrails
- Non-skid entrance steps
- Stepwell lighting
- Driver-side entrance/exit as applicable
- Rear emergency door
- Rear emergency-door retention device
- Emergency-door warning system
- Required push-out emergency windows
- Roof emergency hatch
- Appropriate emergency exit identification

All emergency exits shall comply with applicable federal requirements.

8. WINDOWS

The vehicle shall include:

- Factory windshield
- Intermittent windshield wipers and washers
- Tinted passenger windows
- Commercial-grade passenger window frames
- Tinted rear emergency-door glass

- Appropriate rear-vision glass
- Required emergency push-out windows

Passenger windows shall provide adequate visibility and ventilation.

9. HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

The vehicle shall be equipped for year-round District use in Illinois.

Required equipment shall include:

- Factory chassis heater
- Windshield defroster
- Passenger compartment heating
- **Rear/passenger compartment air conditioning**
- Driver air conditioning
- Adequate HVAC capacity to heat and cool the entire 14-passenger vehicle
- Appropriate heater water shut-off valves where applicable
- Appropriate protection for interior heater lines and components

The bidder shall provide:

Passenger Heater Capacity: _____

Passenger A/C Capacity: _____

10. LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL

The vehicle shall include:

- LED exterior lighting where commercially available
- LED stop/tail lights
- LED back-up lights
- LED turn signals
- LED clearance and marker lights as required
- Interior passenger dome lighting
- Driver-area lighting
- Entrance/stepwell lighting
- Exterior side turn indicators where applicable

- Back-up alarm
 - Appropriate circuit protection
 - Commercial-grade, identified body wiring
 - Adequate electrical capacity for all installed equipment
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11. AUDIO AND COMMUNICATION

The vehicle shall include:

- AM/FM audio system or current manufacturer equivalent
 - Bluetooth, USB, or comparable current audio connectivity where available
 - Passenger compartment speakers
 - Provisions for installation of District communication equipment
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12. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The vehicle shall include all safety equipment required for its classification and intended use, including:

- Fire extinguisher
 - First aid kit
 - Body fluid clean-up kit
 - Emergency reflective warning triangles
 - Seat belt cutter
 - Back-up alarm
 - Emergency exit alarms
 - Required emergency exits
 - Appropriate exterior mirrors
 - Interior rear-view mirror
 - Child-check system or equivalent post-trip reminder system
 - All other safety equipment required by applicable federal and Illinois requirements
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13. MIRRORS

The vehicle shall include:

- Heated or self-defrosting exterior rear-view mirrors
- Appropriate cross-view mirrors when required for the vehicle configuration
- Interior rear-view mirror
- Driver sun visor

Mirrors shall provide the driver with appropriate visibility around the vehicle.

14. STORAGE

The vehicle shall include an exterior luggage/storage compartment suitable for District activity transportation.

The bidder shall describe the storage configuration:

Approximate Storage Capacity/Dimensions:

15. WARRANTY

The bidder shall provide complete warranty information for the proposed vehicle.

Chassis Warranty: _____

Engine/Powertrain Warranty: _____

Transmission Warranty: _____

Body Warranty: _____

Paint/Corrosion Warranty: _____

HVAC Warranty: _____

Other Warranty: _____

Copies or descriptions of applicable manufacturer warranties shall be included with the bid.

16. SERVICE AND PARTS

The availability of warranty service, routine maintenance, and replacement parts may be considered in evaluating bids.

The bidder shall provide:

Nearest Authorized Chassis Service Facility:

Nearest Authorized Body Service Facility:

Approximate Distance from Farmington, Illinois:

Parts/Service Support Information:

17. DELIVERY

The completed vehicle shall be delivered to:

Farmington Central CUSD #265

Farmington, Illinois

The vehicle shall be completely serviced before delivery.

This shall include:

- Complete chassis inspection
- Complete body inspection
- All fluids filled to proper levels
- All equipment installed and operational
- Vehicle cleaned inside and outside
- Required inspection completed
- Title completed
- License included
- All required documentation provided

The vehicle shall be **fully ready for District use at the time of delivery.**

18. BID PRICE

The bid price shall be an **all-inclusive delivered price.**

The price shall include:

- Complete vehicle
- All specified equipment
- Vehicle preparation
- Required inspection
- Title fees
- License fees
- Documentation fees
- Delivery to Farmington, Illinois
- All other costs necessary to place the vehicle into District service

BID INFORMATION

Model Year: _____

Chassis Manufacturer: _____

Body Manufacturer: _____

Make/Model: _____

Passenger Capacity: _____

TOTAL DELIVERED PRICE: \$ _____

Estimated Delivery Date: _____

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

19. OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

The bidder may separately identify recommended optional equipment.

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

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

20. EXCEPTIONS AND ALTERNATES

The District intends these specifications to establish the type, capacity, quality, and functionality of vehicle desired without unnecessarily limiting competition to a particular manufacturer.

Equivalent or superior equipment will be considered **except for the following mandatory requirements:**

NO EXCEPTIONS:

- Vehicle must be **NEW**
- Vehicle must be **GASOLINE POWERED**
- Exterior must be **WHITE**

- Vehicle must provide seating for **14 PASSENGERS**, in addition to the driver

All other exceptions, substitutions, or deviations must be clearly identified and explained.

Exceptions/Alternates:

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

21. 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
- Compliance with specifications
- Vehicle quality and construction
- Warranty coverage
- Availability of parts
- Availability and proximity of authorized service
- Passenger comfort
- Storage capacity
- Safety equipment
- Estimated delivery date
- Exceptions or substitutions
- Expected operating and maintenance costs
- Overall suitability for District transportation needs

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

22. VENDOR INFORMATION

Name of Firm: _____

Manufacturer Represented: _____

Name of Representative: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Authorized Agent: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

23. 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 – 14-PASSENGER TYPE A ACTIVITY BUS"

Bids received after the stated deadline may not be considered.

24. 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 except where a requirement is specifically identified as "No Exceptions."
- Consider delivery time, warranty, service availability, operating costs, and other factors in addition to purchase price.
- Select 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.