

**Essence Public School Request for Proposals – Transportation Services
Vendor Questions and Answers**

1. Could the RFP response date be extended until June 3, 2022?
 - *The RFP will be extended for two-weeks. The new deadline date is now May 27, 2022.*
2. Could contractors park the buses at the campus?
 - *At time, it has not been determined if the buses will be able to remain parked on the premises according to the current lot lease agreement.*
3. Could the term of the contract extended to at least two years, but preferably five.
 - *At this time, we are seeking the term stated in the RPF. The option for an extended contract may be considered in the future.*
4. Would the school consider a cost-plus method?
 - *If presented in detail, a cost-plus option may be considered in the best interest of all parties.*
5. Will the district allow the contractor to operate private charters outside of school hours?
 - *If presented in detail, the option to operate private charters outside of school hours will be considered.*
6. Will the district consider prefunding start-up costs?
 - *At this time, the School is not considering a prefunding start-up option.*
7. Would the school enter into a lease/purchase agreement for the buses?
 - *At this time, the School is seeking to contract transportation services only.*
8. Is a routing software required like Transfinder or Versatrans?
 - *Routing Software would be favorable, but not required at this time.*
9. Is Zonar required for Pre/Post Trip as well as a parent app?
 - *Zonar is not required at this time.*
10. Is a parent app required for tracking the buses?
 - *For the safety of Essence Prep students and staff, a parent tracking system would be highly favorable and will be weighed as such for any proposal.*
11. For Regular Education students, has the school considered group stops?
 - *Group stops have been considered and are preferred. Stops will be determined by student pick-up locations.*
12. Has the school set minimum age limits for students to be dropped off without a parent present?
 - *Yes, an age requirement has been set; a student would have to be 12 years of age to be at a stop without a parent or guardian. We won't have any students in year one that would fit that age category.*
13. If Service is currently being provided, what two challenges, if any, is the School experiencing with their current transportation program?
 - *Essence Public School is a new Charter School that will be opening in the Fall of 2022. At this time, the School does not have an existing transportation program.*
14. Driver labor is a problem nationally in the school bus industry. If you're contracting out services currently has the School experienced driver shortages this year? If so, to what extent.
 - *Essence Public School is a new Charter School that will be opening in the Fall of 2022. At this time, the School does not have an existing transportation program.*
15. Assuming there is a current/most recent student transportation agreement for this service will you please provide an electronic copy of the document including all amendments, addenda, price increase letters, etc.
 - *Essence Public School is a new Charter School that will be opening in the Fall of 2022. At this time, the School does not have an existing transportation program.*
16. If service is currently being provided, please provide complete copies of invoices for all transportation services including backup spreadsheets of; September 2021 and January 2022.
 - *Essence Public School is a new Charter School that will be opening in the Fall of 2022. At this time, the School does not have an existing transportation program.*
17. In Section C. Fleet size, the RFP suggests a minimum of six (2) 10-30 passenger (Type A or A1) buses. Are there six (6) or two (2) routes?
 - *There will be two routes. One from the School to the designated pick-up locations. The second will be from the designated pick-up locations back to the School.*