

Questions And Answers to FirstLine Student Transportation RFP

(as received by 6:00 AM, April 12, 2013)

All of the questions and answers below are reflected in the NEW RFP Narrative, marked with today's date (130412) and posted to the FirstLine RFP website. Changed/Updated text has been highlighted in **YELLOW** in that document. This new narrative replaces the original narrative posted on 130328.

1. Clarify the number of routes, runs, and buses needed for the purposes of this RFP. Clarify the number of ADDITIONAL potential schools/buses.

A more accurate quantity of buses serving the current FirstLine system and a clear definition of the terms RUN and ROUTE as used in this RFP have been added to page 2 under the "General Information" heading. An updated site listing, including a more accurate estimate of number of runs and number of buses needed for the 2013-2014 school year has replaced the original Table 1 - Site Information, and can be found on page 3. Due to confusion around requested services, the list of potential additional schools have been removed from this RFP and any additional service needed beyond the scope of work defined here can be negotiated after contract has been awarded.

2. Clarify the number of miles per route (on average?)

Average mileage for each expected bus (Single-Tier and Double-Tier) is defined on page 10 under the heading "Pricing Proposal."

3. Provide a layout of tiers: which buses will run for multiple schools.

The actual final routing and tiering of buses is dependent on the final enrollment numbers and final bell times which are currently unavailable. However the estimated number of buses and quantity of those which shall be tiered or untiered is defined on Table 1 - Site Information, on page 3.

4. Clarify language on the 3rd prohibition concerning stipulations and qualifying statements.

This bullet has been removed from the RFP as FirstLine does not want to inhibit creative or innovative solutions to our student transportation challenges. However, the spirit of this bullet remains evident throughout this RFP: Proposers are discouraged from attaching special stipulations to their pricing proposals for the purpose of appearing lower cost to win the bid and then negotiating a higher cost to increase profits.

5. Define "bonded" as a requirement under the Insurance bullet.

Bonding is to protect FirstLine in potential litigation that would involve individual employees of the Proposer engaging directly with FirstLine property in FirstLine space. This is not relevant to student transportation and the requirement to have all employees bonded has been removed from this RFP. A requirement for an umbrella policy has been added to the insurance requirements and is noted under the "Insurance" bullet on page 8.

6. Provide number of field trips that will be taken for the duration of the contract.

FirstLine estimates 50-60 field trips per school per year. Some field trips require multiple-buses, some happen on the same days as other field trips.

7. In addition, provide the number of days that the routes will conflict with normal home-to-school routes and school-to-home routes.

A number of schools schedule over-night retreats for their older classes towards the end of each year. Besides these once-a-year events FirstLine plans to have NO field trips conflict with normal home-to-school runs.

8. Clarify special needs busing needs.

The quantity of special needs buses needs is highly dependent on the student enrollment rosters and individual education plans (IEPs) for each of those students at each school, which will not be finalized until July. A paragraph has been added to page 10 under the “Pricing Proposal” heading estimating the need for 5 Double-Tier Wheelchair-accessible Special Needs Buses but this is given as an estimate only. Proposers may offer pricing for each wheelchair-accessible bus and limit the number of buses provided by indicating so on Table 3 - Proposed Pricing.

9. Clarify requirement that all buses have air conditioning.

FirstLine understands the challenges of providing an air-conditioned fleet of buses, particularly given the limited time between contract award and the first day of school. Therefore we have removed the air-conditioning requirement from the Buses bullet on page 7, under the “Proposal Requirements” heading, for all regular home-to-school buses. Wheelchair-accessible buses are REQUIRED to have air-conditioning. Air-conditioning on additional units can be proposed by indicating a cost-per-bus-per-year or cost-per-day-per-route and by indicating any installation requirements on Table 3 – Proposed Pricing.

10. Clarify the submittal process.

Updated clarity to the Bid Submittal process is included on page 4 under the bullet “Submission.” Bids must be submitted to Aron electronically before 2pm on April 29th; Aron will email all Proposers the bid pricing in lieu of a public bid opening; printed versions of the bid may be received after that provided they were postmarked on that day.

11. Can we have additional time for questions?

YES – due to the number of questions received and the lack of initial clarity around the size of our required service, FirstLine has EXTENDED the open-question period. Please submit all questions via email to Aron Michalski by 5pm on April 16, 2013. Questions will be answered by 5pm on April 17, 2013. This information has been updated on page 1 and page 4 of the RFP.