



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Memo

To: Superintendents, Business Managers, and Transportation Directors
From: Ray Mercial, Transportation Director
Date: July 6, 2009
Re: Basic Bus Bids and Maximum Depreciation

In accordance with Idaho Code 33-1006 and Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations, the State Department of Education recently solicited bids for Conventional and Transit FE basic school buses. The June 2009 basic bus low bid will be used to set maximum depreciation reimbursements for a six month period. SDE will solicit bids again in December to set maximum depreciation allowed for the following six months.

School districts will continue to independently bid buses in accordance with bidding requirements outlined in Idaho Code. Districts may bid for school buses using individual specifications or may bid using the state basic bus specifications. Idaho basic bus specifications are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/transportation/>.

New school bus depreciation reimbursements will be limited to the state basic bus low bid plus any pre-approved safety options. The following table lists maximum depreciation allowed on district bus bids accepted between July 1 and December 31, 2009. Districts will submit a copy of school board meeting minutes as documentation of the bid acceptance date.

Diesel	Actual Passenger Capacity (Lift buses based on rated capacity)					
	41-42	53-54	65-66	71-72	77-78	83-84
Conventional	\$79,201	\$79,622	\$80,271	\$81,583	\$82,348	N/A
Transit FE	\$86,001	\$86,467	\$88,265	\$88,470	\$89,558	\$90,133

In addition to the above listed maximum depreciation, the following safety options may be allowed as additional reimbursement on a pre-approval basis. Districts that need safety options beyond the basic bus, two-way radio, and single camera passenger surveillance system must submit a pre-approval request in advance of bidding the bus. Pre-approval requests should be submitted online via the System for Idaho School Transportation Reporting (SISTR). The following table reports the maximum reimbursement added to the basic bus for each safety option and the amount removed for non-reimbursable options.

Safety Options <u>Not</u> Requiring Pre-Approval	Blue Bird	International	Thomas
Single camera passenger surveillance system	\$2,000	\$1,950	No Response
Two-way radio communication system	\$825	\$650	No Response
Safety Options <u>Requiring</u> Pre-Approval	Blue Bird	International	Thomas
Air conditioning	\$9,500	\$8,500	No Response
Automatic chains	\$2,200	\$2,600	No Response
Diesel-fueled 45,000 BTU auxiliary heating system	\$2,900	\$3,900	No Response
Electromagnetic driveline retarder	\$9,500	\$9,200	No Response
Empty/passenger bus check system (included in basic bus price)	\$250	STD	No Response
Engine retarder	N/A	\$1,254	No Response
Exhaust retarder	\$650	\$588	No Response
Flat floor	\$320	\$494	No Response
Front bumper-mounted student crossing arm	\$850	\$120	No Response
Full track seating	\$9,800	\$5,669	No Response
Heated entry steps	\$350	\$331	No Response
Pre-school age seating (C.E. White or equivalent) per seat in-lieu of standard passenger seat (4 seats included in basic bus price)	\$850	\$764	No Response
Roof-mounted rear air deflector	\$600	\$458	No Response
Second stop arm – left side rear	\$220	\$424	No Response
Track seating per station	\$700	\$682	No Response
Wheelchair lift package	\$4,800	\$5,855	No Response

Non-Reimbursable Options (not all-inclusive)	Blue Bird	International	Thomas
Dual camera passenger surveillance system	\$2,800	\$2,500	No Response
Extended warranties	\$2,200	\$1,653 (engine)	No Response
Fire block seating per seat in-lieu of standard seat	\$20.45	\$21.50	No Response
Tinted passenger window glass (28%)	\$550	\$568	No Response
White roof	\$220	\$456	No Response

Please contact SDE with any questions on the new basic bus bids or maximum depreciation. Bus sizes or types that fall outside the basic bus specifications will be depreciated at a rate not to exceed the prior year's average low bid price.