



Special Education Transportation Task Force
January 12, 2017
Minutes

Members present: Jay Sullivan, Colleen Cavanaugh, John Hennessey, Gerry Mazor, Mike Laliberte, Dave Verdolino, Steve Theall and Carla Jentz

Meeting Convened at 10:00 AM

Agenda Items

Contract Updates

District Reviews: Seekonk and Gateway Regional School District reviews have been completed, copies were available for members to review. Fitchburg Public Schools and Amesbury are currently underway, and Salem has been scheduled. Five other districts have expressed interest. Ms. Cavanaugh reviewed what is conducted as part of the review:

- Review all contracts and processes used for obtaining transportation services
 - Most cases no contract in place, call as needed
 - One year pricing
 - Vendor combines routes, district not informed
 - Some cases pricing reflects combination
 - Route prices vary
- Conduct analysis of in-house operations
 - Review driver schedule with salary
 - Conduct time/capacity analysis
 - Analyze budget for efficiencies
- Role of district personnel in arranging services
 - Interview admin assist/secretary
 - Forms used for services
 - Protocols for dealing with trans issues
- Explore option of district operated program
 - Create or expand current transportation operations
 - Create budgets
 - Show cost savings
- Conduct analysis of transportation budget for past 3 years and current
- Review IEP process as it pertains to transportation
 - Process used for requiring a monitor
 - Preschool transportation
 - Knowledge of trans at team meeting
- Provide comparative State data from Schedule 7 for FY13-FY15



Recommendation was made to collect daily route rates, cost of vehicle insurance, driver rate of pay as part to the review process. Question raised as to what is the most ideal insurance, suggest survey collaboratives.

Feedback has been received from several districts that they are using the data presented on the SpedTransSavings website. Mr. Sullivan will have the October 1 data for FY17 within the next couple of weeks for upload.

Stakeholder Updates

Mr. Verdolino will look into having Ms. Cavanaugh host a clinic at the March MASBO program meeting to share with districts the review process. Suggestion made to invite past clients to share their experience. A one-year follow up will be conducted to document outcomes from the reviews. The deadline for the next MASBO newsletter is March 21st.

Ms. Jentz distributed the results of the survey that was conducted at the October ASE statewide meeting. Six districts have expressed an interest in hearing more about the special education reviews. In response to the question if tuitions are higher than the transportation, 44% said yes, 56% said no. In response to question two, 27% were interested in discussing a review.

FY18 Contract

Mr. Sullivan will be meeting with the State Special Education office to discuss possible funding for next year. He will contact Ms. Cavanaugh for information that would be helpful for that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM.

The next meeting will be held at TEC, commencing at 10:00 AM on April 27, 2017.