



# First Alt: Enhancing Student Transportation



First Student offers the first-ever full-service K-12 Transportation Solution by integrating alternative transportation services with traditional school bus service. This approach ensures that all students receive reliable and efficient transportation, regardless of their specific needs. Key features of First Alt include:

- 1. Customized Transportation Plans:** Tailoring routes and services to meet the individual needs of students, ensuring timely and safe transportation.
- 2. Unified Operations:** Streamlining operations by managing both traditional and alternative transportation under one umbrella, reducing administrative burdens and improving efficiency.
- 3. Enhanced Safety Protocols:** Implementing rigorous safety standards and training for drivers to ensure the highest level of care for all students.
- 4. Advanced Technology Integration:** Utilizing GPS tracking, real-time updates, and route planning to optimize transportation services and ensure accountability.

We provide service for:



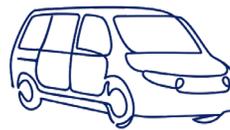
#### Students with Special Needs

First Alt's contracted drivers can handle everything from behavioral challenges to special needs equipment.



#### McKinney Vento Students

Students may need to be picked up or dropped off at different locations each day. Our customized software makes this process seamless for caregivers, districts and drivers.



#### Out-Of-District Students

Students may need to attend specialized schools outside of your district. First Alt can accommodate these needs and provide solutions for multi-district billing.



#### Hard-To-Serve Trips

When transporting students in remote or hard-to-serve areas, First Alt can help free up district resources to use on larger-capacity trips.

## First Alt Training and Safety

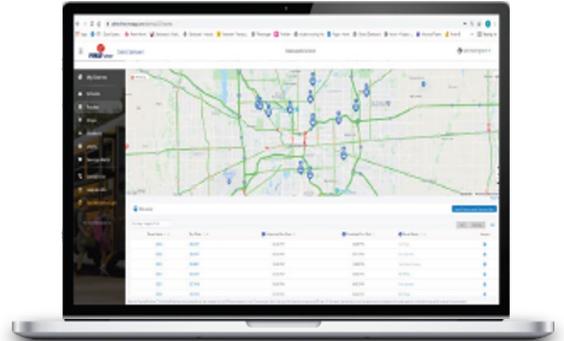
First Alt places a strong emphasis on the training and safety of any driver transporting students, ensuring they are well-prepared to handle a variety of situations:

- **Comprehensive Training:** Alternative transportation drivers receive the same extensive training as First Student bus drivers, covering everything from behavioral challenges to handling special equipment needs. This includes training on the functions of behavior and the Rage Cycle to help drivers relate to students and de-escalate issues.
- **Rigorous Requirements:** All transportation partners and their drivers must meet First Student, state, local, and district requirements before servicing trips. This ensures the highest standards of safety and reliability.
- **Drug and Alcohol Testing:** First Alt implements a robust drug and alcohol testing program, including pre-service, random, post-accident, and reasonable suspicion testing
- **Background Checks:** Initial and continuous background and Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) checks are conducted to maintain a high standard of driver qualification.

## First Alt Technology

First Alt has developed the first custom technology specifically designed for alternative transportation and its unique challenges. This technology provides numerous benefits:

- **Proactive Trip Management:** Dashboards alert the team to any trips running late, substitute drivers needed, and each driver and student's status.
- **FirstView for Districts:** The FirstView dashboard for districts, provides real-time GPS access to all student transportation events (picked-up, dropped-off, in route, etc.) and is easily accessible through a district computer or phone.
- **FirstView for Parents:** The FirstView mobile app provides real-time GPS access to the location of their child's vehicle. Whether tracking their child's trip, viewing the vehicle and driver information, or receiving real-time notifications, FirstView gives parents the information they need to have the peace of mind that their student is being transported safely.



## Benefits of Integrating First Alt with Your First Student Buses

The integration of First Alt with First Student's traditional bus services offers several benefits to school districts:

- 1. Seamless Coordination:** By managing all transportation needs through a single provider, school districts can ensure better coordination and communication, resulting in more efficient and effective transportation services.
- 2. Cost-Effectiveness:** Unified services can lead to cost savings through optimized routing, reduced administrative costs, and economies of scale.
- 3. Enhanced Student Experience:** Students benefit from consistent, reliable transportation that meets their unique needs, improving their overall school experience and reducing absenteeism.
- 4. Flexibility and Adaptability:** First Alt provides the flexibility to adapt to changing needs and circumstances, ensuring that no student is left without transportation.

## Cooperative Purchasing Agreements

First Alt is proud to have been awarded two cooperative purchasing agreements: Equalis Group, Sourcewell, OMNIA Partners, BuyQ and the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA). Cooperative purchasing organizations are invaluable for public agencies and organizations where cost-effectiveness and efficient procurement processes are essential. These organizations streamline the procurement of products and services by leveraging the collective purchasing power of their members, providing significant savings and efficiency improvements.



## Benefits of Cooperative Purchasing

- Cost-Effectiveness:** By pooling resources and purchasing power, cooperative agreements often result in lower prices for products and services.
- Efficiency:** These agreements simplify the procurement process, reducing the time and effort required to source and negotiate contracts individually.
- Access to Quality Services:** Members gain access to pre-vetted, high-quality service providers, ensuring reliability and performance.

## Transitioning Students Back to the Bus

A unique advantage of First Alt is its ability to transition students back to traditional school bus whenever possible. This reintegration fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion for students, promoting social interactions and contributing to their overall well-being. Unlike other alternative transportation providers, First Alt's seamless integration with First Student allows for this fluid transition, ensuring that students can benefit from the full range of transportation services.

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## Case Studies and Success Stories

### Community High School District 94, Illinois

Community High School District 94 in West Chicago awarded a new transportation contract to First Student and First Alt. This contract will transform district transportation logistics by consolidating general and special education routes into a seamless operation. First Student and First Alt will ensure each student is matched with the right mode of transportation, helping them feel comfortable and secure every day as they go to and from school.

This partnership will enhance communication and provide a safe and positive transportation experience for all students. This unified approach ensures continuity, efficiency, and service excellence, reinforcing the district's commitment to student welfare and academic success. First Student offers comprehensive solutions tailored to the district's unique requirements. The district previously operated with distinct contracts for general and special education transportation.

As First Student began looking at providing yellow buses for all routes, the benefits of bringing in First Alt to bid on special education routes became apparent from a cost and efficiency standpoint. First Student will supply school buses, while First Alt will provide transportation for the vulnerable student population in small-capacity vehicles driven by trained drivers equipped to handle special needs.

"We are proud to join forces with Community High School District 94 to transform their transportation infrastructure to match student transportation to student needs. Creating a fully unified operation means students get to school safely and on time regardless of ability and they have every opportunity to start their day ready to learn," Gregg Prettyman, Vice President of First Alt said. "Through our integrated approach and unwavering commitment to excellence, we are confident in our ability to deliver unparalleled service to the district's students and families. We thank Community High School District 94 for their trust."

## St. Joseph School District, Missouri

This is a story of how the collaboration between First Student and its subsidiary, First Alt, have orchestrated a transportation revolution at St. Joseph School District. With a unified mission and innovative strategies, they've successfully navigated challenges and achieved the remarkable feat of returning students back onto yellow school buses, reaffirming their commitment to safety and efficiency in student transportation.

In the rural setting of St. Joseph, Missouri, First Student was already established as a yellow bus transportation provider. Facing unique challenges, including limited access to drivers, First Student introduced First Alt as an alternative transportation solution for students who were not able to ride on the bus, thus enriching their existing collaboration.

Initially tasked with providing alternative transportation for a few students, First Alt services quickly expanded to accommodate 110 students. Through innovative strategies and collaborative efforts, 22 students have successfully transitioned back to school buses. This partnership exemplifies a new era of K-12 transportation where safety, accessibility, and innovation are paramount.

## **Conclusion**

First Alt, powered by First Student's comprehensive transportation solutions, is dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of school districts. Our integrated approach ensures that every student, regardless of their unique requirements, receives safe, reliable, and efficient transportation. Through partnerships like those with Community High School District 94 and St. Joseph School District, we are redefining student transportation, ensuring all students have the best opportunity to start their day ready to learn.

If your district requires alternative transportation or currently utilizes another provider for non-bus transportation, consider the benefits of unifying your transportation needs with First Student.

[Contact us to speak with a First Alt Area General Manager.](#)