



FirstAlt provides alternative transportation solutions for students with special transportation needs, students experiencing homelessness, out-of-district and hard-to-reach students. FirstAlt utilizes a fleet of small-capacity vehicles — a mix of sedans, SUVs, minivans and wheelchair vans — from existing local transportation companies that are expertly operated and maintained. This model provides school districts flexibility in their transportation program, reduces costs and frees up resources for higher-capacity trips. Reliable FirstAlt drivers have the necessary training to ensure that each student’s trip to school and back home is as smooth as possible.

With the introduction of FirstAlt, First Student is the only company in the industry to offer a complete K-12 transportation solution. This allows districts to work with one partner vs. multiple, and sometimes competing, vendors.

FirstAlt benefits include:

Helping school districts with unmet transportation needs

- Many school districts struggle to find and manage vendors and drivers that provide alternative transportation options for students.
- School districts are often forced to hire taxis or ask staff members to drive school vans to service students with special transportation needs, increasing risk and cost.

Ensuring no student is left behind

- FirstAlt caters to the school district’s most vulnerable students including those with special needs or experiencing homelessness.
- First Alt transports out-of-district students, those in special programs and hard-to-serve trips.

Alleviating pressure on current school bus routes

- By taking on the transportation of students with special transportation needs, FirstAlt lessens the demand on standard buses, routes and drivers.
- FirstAlts use of smaller, more flexible vehicles can bring down a districts overall transportation costs.

An inclusive transportation model that mirrors each school district’s inclusion model

- First Student’s philosophy of transporting students in the least restrictive environment possible mirrors how school districts think about inclusion in the classroom.
- Students are transported in the right-sized vehicle for their current situation and moved to a larger more efficient and cost-effective vehicle when they are ready.

Efficiency supported by world-class training, routing and operational discipline

- Alternative transportation drivers consistently receive the best training in the industry, co-developed with child psychologists at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, the #1 ranked children’s hospital in the United States, giving school administrators peace of mind.
- FirstAlt utilizes the same routing teams as First Student, which routes over 50K buses a day, ensuring the most efficient and cost-effective utilization of school buses and alternative transportation vehicles.
- FirstAlt’s transportation partners meet First Student’s operational standards including rigorous pre-trip inspections and preventative maintenance practices.



The Impact of FirstAlt

Every student rider has different transportation needs and requires different accommodations. Whether it's providing a familiar toy to a student or engaging them in learning activities during the ride, the FirstAlt team works with parents to create solutions for an enjoyable transportation experience.

The FirstAlt model works because we're able to customize each child's ride to and from school so they arrive ready to achieve their full potential.

Industry Leading Standards



Background Checks

- Initial and continuous background and motor vehicle registration checks



Drug Testing

- Pre-service, random, post-accident and reasonable suspicion testing



Driver Training

- Enhanced special needs training comparable to their First Student school bus driver counterparts



Technology

- Real-time updates throughout the day for drivers as every trip is tracked for every student



Consistency

- Stability for students riding with the same driver every day

Current Stats

FirstAlt continues to grow and is currently serving students with special transportation needs in the following states: California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. There are currently **46 school districts under contract serving 1200 trips per day.**



Cooperative Partnership

FirstAlt won the alternative transportation cooperative agreement with the Equalis Group, a cooperative purchasing organization that provides contracts competitively solicited by public agencies for a wide array of products and services. This agreement allows K-12 schools, across the U.S. that are Equalis Group members, to contract with FirstAlt easily and quickly through already-procured contracts without conducting their own requests for proposals or soliciting bids.