**COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Award Result**

**RFP NO. C-15029**

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**October 13, 2014**

**Award To: STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF AMERICA (STA), Charleston, SC1**

Requests for proposals were sent and made available with a request that bidders bid the current model of full service and consider optional models a firm might consider a better option for Columbia Public Schools. Additionally, we requested that all bidders provide information on possible options that might encourage healthier student transportation and behavior.

One company offered an alternative model in which the school district would negotiate the acquisition of the bus fleet and acquire it under a lease purchase agreement. The provider would then provide turn-key services to include all costs of fleet maintenance, repair, and insurance. Under this model, the district would make two payments, one for the lease purchase and one for the service. At the end of the bus lease/purchase, the district would own the fleet.

Based on the bids received and the input of building and program leaders, the administration recommends a contract for the current model of programming with Student Transportation of America (STA).

**Fiscal Impact and Funding Source**

Based on the current year’s contract with First Student, we spend $10.1 million exclusive of charter and extracurricular trips. STA’s proposal would leave the budget for daily routing flat at $10.1 million for 2015-16 and increase over the five-year agreement to $11.3 million.