

CHRONOLOGY OF THE AGENDA ITEM

Board Agenda Item Title: Approval to Secure Charter Transportation Service for Georgia Aquarium Experiential Learning Experiences for Students in Grades K-12 (Not to exceed \$300,000) and Junior Achievement Biz Town and Finance Park (not to exceed \$390,000 for a total not to exceed \$690,000).

Background/Details

DeKalb County School District entered into an official partnership with the Georgia Aquarium on July 14, 2025. The partnership requires consistent access to student transportation for students to be able to fully participate in the various learning opportunities during the 2025-2026 academic year. This request is to provide ongoing transportation to and from the Georgia Aquarium to allow students in grades K-12 to participate in instructor led experiential learning experiences. Students will gain access to opportunities to explore careers in Marine Science. In addition, students will have the opportunity to accelerate their learning and bridge gaps in their knowledge as they engage in real world applications and experiences in science and other core content areas.

DeKalb County School District and Junior Achievement have a long-standing partnership that provides sixth and seventh grade students to participate in JA Biztown and JA Finance Park respectively. As part of this engagement, the District provides transportation to the event center located at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The program includes classroom guidance activities facilitated by the grade level social studies teachers and culminates with a learning experience at the JA center.

Contract Term

Samson Tours, Inc and Coast to Coast Tours, LLC are current board approved carriers that can provide services until May 2026 based upon availability. The contract for Samson Tours, Inc and Coast to Coast Tours, LLC to support transporting students to and from the Georgia Aquarium is from September 9, 2025 – June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. Service for a 48-56 passenger bus costs approximately \$749.00 - \$1,599.00 per bus for an approximate total of \$300,000.

Coast to Coast Tour, LLC will also provide transportation services to students attending the Junior Achievement program from September 23, 2025 to May 30, 2026. Service for a 55-passenger bus costs approximately \$1,150.00 - 1,250.00. The total number of buses needed to transport all sixth and seventh grade students is 312 buses for an approximate total of \$390,000.00.

Scope

Samson Tours, Inc., Coast to Coast Tours, LLC and R&W Motor Coach, Inc are approved transportation carriers with the DeKalb County School District. To accommodate K-12 students, Samson Tours, Inc and Coast to Coast Tours, LLC will transport students to the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the Georgia Aquarium educational programs and opportunities. Coast to Coast and R&W Motor Coach, Inc will also provide transportation to students participating in the Junior Achievement program.