

Connecticut RESC Alliance
REGIONAL EFFICIENCY PROJECT/PROGRAM PROPOSAL

RESC:

The RESC Alliance – a proposal by all six Regional Education Service Centers serving all school districts across the state

PROJECT/PROGRAM TITLE:

Statewide Database and Interactive Tool for Specialized Student Transportation

DESCRIPTION:

Specific regional need(s) being met, and potential for efficiencies)

The RESC Alliance proposes an expansion of an online student Transportation Database and Interactive Map tool, which would facilitate regional transportation planning and would be available to all school districts across the state. The tool would allow for the creation of a statewide database and interactive map of specialized small-vehicle routes to facilities across the state.

The proposal would require incentive funds of \$110,000 for a fulltime Data Manager/Analyst and expanded design/programming support. The Data Manager/Analyst would be established and sustained by the RESCs.

Currently, a group of 15 school districts in western CT is collaborating with a RESC to gather and map specialized, small vehicles, transportation services. While this has been primarily focused on special education routes to out-of-district facilities, some districts have also included State technical high schools, private placement facilities, and regional vocational/agricultural programs. Districts submit data on each of the specialized routes they have in place to transport students outside their district. The data includes the grade-level of the students, the destination of the route, the name of the vendor providing the service, the number of students on the van, and the cost per day of the route. The data were combined and integrated into a web-based interactive map, made available to personnel in each of the participating districts. This tool allowed district-level staff to compare costs on similar regional routes provided by multiple vendors, making the districts more informed consumers of these transportation services. Just as critical, has been the potential for interdistrict ride-sharing opportunities. The tool gives districts the ability to review routes originating from neighboring districts to the same facilities, then investigate the possibility of collaborating with others to share the route if appropriate and feasible, creating significant savings.

DISTRICTS/COMMUNITIES:

This project would make the tool described above available to any and all school districts in Connecticut interested in participating.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON COSTS:**(Potential cost savings, containment or avoidance for districts/communities involved)**

The RESC Alliance believes the online student Transportation Database and Interactive Map tool has significant potential for costs savings and cost avoidance for school districts by facilitating more efficient and cost-effective transportation planning on a regional level.

Special education and other small vehicle transportation is a significant expense for all school districts. The data available in the current trial of 15 school districts in western CT shows an average cost for this type of transportation route of over \$200 per day (equal to \$36,000 per year). The opportunity to share just one route between neighboring districts could save between \$60-\$100 per day or \$10,800-\$18,000 per year. Again that reflects just one such opportunity. Statewide, the possibilities expand significantly, conservatively offering potential savings statewide in the hundreds of thousands.

PROJECTED FUNDING NEEDS:

Facility Costs (purchase, lease, renovations)	\$0
Staffing Cost (start-up) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.0 FTE for initial year staffing of a Data Specialist 	\$75,000
Other Equipment/Material/Service Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and programming support contract with private vendor to facilitate the expansion of the current web and data entry tool Statewide marketing, communication and training of district staff for the new tool would be handled by existing RESC staff 	\$25,000 \$10,000
TOTAL REQUEST	\$110,000