



# THAYER CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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2/24/2012

To Whom It May Concern,

Thayer Central Community Schools has used Mid States School Bus, Inc., as our student transportation provider for the past six years. Having come from a district where I handled our transportation program, this was a new experience for me to have outsourced busing.

The benefits I have found to outsourcing transportation include:

- Budgeting: I know what my annual transportation costs are going to be, and there is little fluctuation in that amount. No budgeting for the occasional new bus, no maintenance costs, and no personnel costs. Even increases in gasoline prices do not affect us directly. The only fluctuation is in activity trips and special routes that may arise. Not only do you save the salary cost of transportation employees, but all associated benefits including FICA and retirement.
- No D.O.T. regulations: Mid States handles hiring, training, testing, discipline, inspections, and safety meetings. This is a great reduction in time spent managing transportation.
- Local Bus Captain: Mid States typically hires someone from the community so you are dealing with a person that understands the local norms and has a vested interest in your community. You are not calling their headquarters in a town hours away to solve every issue. This is also a great asset in handling discipline issues that arise over the course of the year.

Our district did recently explore the option of handling our own transportation. While there was potential for some savings, there are many variables and fluctuations that can absorb that savings in a hurry. Ultimately, my school board decided that the anticipated savings did not justify the additional work, headaches, and variable costs involved with ownership.

We have had a positive experience in working with Mid States School Bus, Inc., and I would recommend them for your consideration as you evaluate your transportation needs. I would be happy to answer additional questions, so feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Drew Harris, Supt.  
Thayer Central Community Schools