



## Aurora Public Schools

Aurora, CO

### The Customer

As the only public-school system in Aurora, Colorado, and in partnership with the community, Aurora Public Schools is committed to accelerating learning for all students to develop the knowledge, skills, and character necessary to shape successful futures.

### The Challenge

Several years ago, Aurora Public Schools found itself in a unique position: district enrollment was declining, but bus ridership was on the rise. “Within what is considered to be the Aurora proper, the district did not traditionally bus because most of our students were living within the walking boundaries for their respective schools,” said Shawn E. Smith, Transportation Director, Aurora Public Schools. “In the early 2000s, the demographics began to change as young professionals without children began moving into the urban neighborhoods where most of our schools are located. At the same time, families with school-aged children were moving into Aurora’s more suburban communities, and farther away from our schools. This led to an increase in student transportation needs.”

### The Solution

#### ALC Schools’ Model for Alternative Transportation Needs

ALC Schools supplements districts’ transportation programs using a combination of SUVs, minivans, wheelchair accessible vans, and sedans to assist in transporting McKinney-Vento, ESSA, ESE/special needs, and out-of-district students, as well as hard-to-serve and multi-district trips. Supplementing bus service with small capacity vehicles means that districts no longer pay for unused capacity and have the flexibility to expand and contract their fleet to accommodate the ever-changing demands of these student populations. ALC accomplishes all this while reducing the cost of transportation programs by 20-30%.

### The Result

To accommodate the shifting demographics, the district was able to relocate some of its programs closer to where its students were living, but it still had a significant number of students who required bus services. “We initially brought in ALC Schools to help meet the growing demand for special needs transportation services,” continued Smith. “In many cases, it was not efficient to use a bus to transport one or two students.”

Smith reports that ALC has been especially helpful in cases where the district needed to transport a student from one corner of the district to another. “ALC Schools saved the day for us as we simply could not have one bus tied up with one student when so many other students needed bussing services.”

Over time, Aurora Public Schools, with help from ALC Schools, has expanded and contracted its services based on demand. “At the peak of the program we were using ALC Schools to transport around 300 students, and today we have about 50 students in the program,” said Smith. “We really appreciate the fact that ALC Schools was able to help us scale the program during times of significant need.

For Aurora Public Schools, ALC Schools provides a great value as it enables the district to improve the quality and efficiency of its student transportation services, while helping them stay within budget.

 ***I never lose sleep over ALC Schools,” said Smith. “They are very responsive and provide excelled customer service. Their efficiency in adapting to our evolving needs is unmatched and we are very appreciative to all they’ve done to help us achieve success and be fiscally responsible when it comes to our student transportation program.”***

## The ALC Difference

**At ALC Schools, our focus is on fulfilling districts' special transportation needs. Every day we coordinate trips for thousands of students, yet we never lose sight of the importance of each student's individual and unique circumstances.**

**Because we focus on special transportation needs, we are able to offer a level of personalized service found nowhere else, including:**

### Significantly Reduced Costs

Today, every dollar counts – especially education dollars. ALC can save school districts 20-30% on average and provide improved service. This is a claim we can prove and one that seems hard to ignore.

### Parent/Guardian Meeting

Prior to transporting any student, their parent/guardian will have the opportunity to meet with an ALC Schools representative to discuss all aspects of the student's transportation needs.

We understand that knowing a student's preference to sit on the right-side of the vehicle and to be accompanied by a favorite stuffed animal is just as important as understanding their physical requirements. These parent/guardian meetings allow us to cultivate relationships with the students and their families.

### Driven By Compassion – Same Driver Every Day

Consistency – it's important to your students and it's important to ALC Schools. Our solution, which offers the same driver every day, enhances communication with parents and increases the comfort level of the students.

Because we not only match the vehicle, but also the driver with the individual needs of the student, drivers view their role as having made a commitment to serving "their" students each and every day. The result: students spend more days in the classroom, providing them and their families stability, familiarity, security and trust.

### Real-Time Accountability

ALC is able to confirm, through the use of GPS, the time and locations of each of the district's students' trip events. Knowing where your students are, and when they arrived, provides an additional level of comfort and safety.

### Matching Each Student With The Right Vehicle

ALC Schools' solution is uniquely customized to meet the specific needs of the district's students – today – and as their needs change. ALC ensures that each vehicle best matches the student's needs. Factors such as seating arrangements, wheelchair accessibility, additional equipment needs, and the possible need for a nurse/aide are all considered in identifying a vehicle for each student.

Our mission is to give students with special transportation needs an equal opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

