



LAMERS

The Passenger Professionals®

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March 17, 2020

Mr. Tom Andres, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Krey, Business Manager
River Valley School District
660 W Daley Street
Spring Green, WI 53588

Dear Mr. Andres and Mr. Krey,

This is a special request for consideration concerning compensation for work days lost because of the mandated COVID-19 school closures.

Due to the extreme widespread driver shortages, it is imperative we do all we can for our school bus drivers. We want them to be able to survive this loss of work and return to safely transport our students to school when the closures are over.

We request the compensation due to this and several other areas of ongoing costs that Lamers Bus Lines maintains throughout the school year.

1. **Driver and staff wages:** As previously mentioned, it is of great importance that we make sure our drivers are taken care of, so they don't seek other employment and are available and ready when school is back in session. We also have to maintain some office staff that is available to answer calls and questions from parents and the community.
2. **Bank Financing:** We must still pay for the financing of the school buses while the shutdown occurs. We've made great effort in updating the fleet for the school district, and the cost for those still needs to be paid during the shutdown.
3. **Insurance:** We still have to maintain insurance for all vehicles, property, equipment, liability, unemployment and employees while this shutdown is taking place.
4. **Communication and video costs:** GPS, routing software and video services have a significant monthly cost, which we must maintain throughout the shutdown. They're based on annual pricing, but we are charged monthly and cannot stop payment to these vendors because school is not in session.

If we cannot provide more of a safety net for our drivers, I worry that not only Lamers Bus Lines, but all school bus contractors may be significantly shorthanded when school reopens. I sincerely hope you will help our drivers and staff comes through this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lamers, Lamers Bus Lines