

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	Item ID	72952	Agenda Number	48.
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Meeting Date:	8/17/2017	Department:	Watershed Protection
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**Subject**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Austin Independent School District for transportation services for students participating in the City's watershed education programs for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, with five additional one-year extension options, each in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$180,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$30,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.

**Fiscal Note**

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	August 18, 2011 - Council approved Interlocal Agreement with AISD for transportation services of students for the City's Earth Camp program.
For More Information:	Jessica Wilson, 512-974-2446
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

**Additional Backup Information**

The Interlocal Agreement will continue Earth Camp transportation services that have been provided by AISD to the City for nearly 20 years and will add transportation for the Watershed Detectives program and the Hydrofiles program. Using their school buses, AISD will bill at a rate of approximately \$20.00 per hour for locations within AISD district boundaries, and at a rate of up to \$20.00 per hour plus \$1.60 per mile for locations outside of AISD district boundaries. Without this contract, the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department would not have the ability to engage and educate as many young students on the effects our actions have on water quality and protecting our environment.

The City provides a hands-on, outdoor environmental classroom experience for local students and transports students between their home school and various City of Austin Watershed Protection field program sites throughout the city. The majority of students reached by Watershed Protection Department education programs are within AISD but are also offered to surrounding ISDs that have schools within the City limits like Del Valle ISD and Round Rock ISD. The field programs for elementary, middle and high school are:

- Earth Camp (Elementary School) – Earth Camp is an award-winning water quality field science program for

fifth-grade students attending Title I schools in the Austin Independent School District. Students spend four school days at outdoor sites participating in hands-on science with City educators, hydrogeologists and biologists. Students are encouraged to make informed decisions and take actions which promote stewardship of Austin's beautiful water resources. [www.austintexas.gov/EarthCamp](http://www.austintexas.gov/EarthCamp)

- Watershed Detectives (Middle School) – Watershed Detectives is an award-winning middle school program that offers a place-based curriculum called the Fish Kill Mystery, flood safety awareness activities, and field trip support to caves, creeks, and springs. [www.austintexas.gov/watersheddetectives](http://www.austintexas.gov/watersheddetectives)
- Hydrofiles (High School) – Hydrofiles offers training, field trip support, and water test kits for Austin area high school aquatic science and environmental science classes. The primary focus of hydrofiles is collecting water quality data from the Austin creek closest to the school, analyzing trends in the data, and determining impacts to the creek. Lab materials for the lessons, chemical water quality tests and field trips for collecting creek data are provided by the City of Austin. Additional opportunities include caving into the Edwards Aquifer.  
[www.austintexas.gov/hydrofiles](http://www.austintexas.gov/hydrofiles)