



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

July 8, 2016

Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary
Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. First Student, Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties TE-160699

Dear Mr. King:

On June 21, 2016, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket TE-160699 against First Student, Inc. for ten violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 480-30-071 and 480-30-076), which requires charter and excursion carrier companies to furnish annual reports, supporting documentation and the regulatory fee to the commission no later than May 1 each year, or in this case, May 2 as May 1 was a Sunday.

On June 27, 2016, First Student, Inc. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, First Student, Inc. does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "...I just started at this location in the manager position, I did not know this was needed. I will post for further use. I will complete the form ASAP."

It is the company's responsibility to ensure that the regulatory fee is paid and the annual report is filed by the May 1 deadline. On February 29, 2016, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated charter and excursion companies. The instruction page informs the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 2, 2016, to avoid enforcement action.

The commission did not receive the annual report, nor the regulatory fee prior to May 2. The annual report and regulatory fees are still outstanding and due.

The company changed its name from Laidlaw Transit, Inc. to First Student, Inc. in 2009. First Student, Inc. filed the annual reports late for the 2009, 2012 and 2014 operating years. The penalty amounts were paid in full each of these years. Due to the prior violations of WAC 480-30-071 and 480-030-076, staff does not support any mitigation of the penalty.

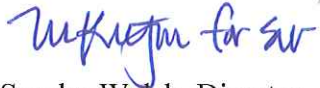
UTC Annual Reports

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If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Sean Bennett, Regulatory Analyst, at (360) 664-1157, or sbennett@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sondra Walsh for SV".

Sondra Walsh, Director
Administrative Services