



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

# UPDATE: Student Transportation Allocation Determination

*2024*

Authorizing Legislation: **RCW 28A.160.180(4)**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) annually submits a report outlining the method used in determining the coefficients for each site characteristic used to establish the transportation allocation for the following year. The Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS) will determine the 2024–25 school year allocation. The 2024–25 regression analysis will use data elements from spring 2024, fall 2024, and winter 2025 reporting periods.

# INTRODUCTION

STARS uses a regression analysis to determine each school district's student transportation operations allocation. The regression analysis process determines coefficients by comparing certain characteristics to statewide reported transportation expenditures. The allocation for each school district is then calculated using the statewide coefficients and the reported data from individual school districts.

## 2024–25 STARS Formula Coefficients

For the 2024–25 school year student transportation allocation, OSPI will use student transportation reports, expenditure data from the 2023–24 school year, and certain district data elements to determine the formula coefficients. The 2023–24 expenditure data will be available December 2024. At that time, OSPI will perform the regression analysis to determine the coefficients used to calculate the student transportation allocations for 2024–25.

### Data elements reported by school districts

- Basic program student counts: total students riding basic program school buses, students riding school buses from stops within the designated walk area and students riding public transit.
- Special program student counts by category: special education; gifted or highly capable; bilingual or multilingual; early education (district-operated Head Start, district-operated Early Childhood Education Assistance Program, and other district-operation early education program); and McKinney-Vento and Foster Care students.
- The average distance from each school bus stop to the corresponding destination.
- The number of destinations (schools or learning centers) served.
- For non-high school districts: If the districts provide transportation service for resident high school students.
- The total land area of the district (OSPI provides the district land area and excludes categories such as national parks and forest areas not provided with transportation services).

## CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

The September through January apportionment payments will be based on the 2023–24 school year apportionment amounts, with an adjustment in February to reflect current year reported data. The February apportionment payment will adjust the prior year amounts to actual calculated apportionments based on the data collected in the 2023–24 spring report and the 2024–25 fall and winter reports. The individual district allocations are available on OSPI’s website under [Student Transportation’s STARS Operations Allocation Detail Reports](#).

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