Implementation of the New Student Transportation Funding System

Summary

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is required to provide the Washington State Legislature with quarterly updates on the progress of the implementation of the new student transportation funding system referred to as STARS (Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System). Prior status reports are available on OSPI’s Web site: http://www.k12.wa.us/LegisGov/Reports.aspx.

Background

The 2010 Washington State Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 2776, which set the implementation date for STARS as September 1, 2011. The General Instructions for Data Collection and the Detailed Guidance for Data Collection are available on OSPI’s Web site, under “STARS Reference Material”: http://www.k12.wa.us/Transportation/STARS. The STARS system requires school districts to submit three reports per school year with the first due at the end of October, the second due February 1 and the third due May 1. The results of the reports are available at http://www.k12.wa.us/Transportation/STARS, under “Quarterly Reports.”

Status Update

The regional transportation coordinators are providing their annual transportation reporting workshops during September 2013. Except for minor changes to the reporting instructions for clarification of original intent, the only change for the 2013-14 school year is that districts are being asked to report the total number of mid-day routes instead of just the count of the “K Routes” (kindergarten routes). Since the K Route count was not statistically significant in the past two years, the data collection is being modified to include the larger number of additional route types provided by districts as part of mid-day transportation. (Field trips are not included.) This data will be analyzed for statistical significant allocation, but will not impact current year funding.
Funding estimates for the 2013-14 school year can be found at: http://www.k12.wa.us/SAFS/Misc/BudPrep13/2013-14_Pivot_Table_97-2002_Excel.PostSession%20Final.xls.

The regional transportation coordinator review process for those school districts with efficiency ratings of less than 90 percent (required by Revised Code of Washington 28A.160.117) is continuing. For additional discussion of the review process, see the March 2013 Status Update. Initial meetings with school district staff have been held in most of the required districts.