UPDATE: The Allocation Basis for Student Transportation

2014

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


K–12 Financial Resources
JoLynn Berge, Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by:
- Allan J Jones, Director of Student Transportation (allan.jones@k12.wa.us, 360-725-6122)
Background

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.160.180 (4) requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit annually “a report outlining the methodology and rationale used in determining the statistical coefficients for each site characteristic used to determine the (transportation) allocation for the following year.”

The Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS) uses a regression analysis to determine each school district’s student transportation operations allocation. The regression analysis process determines coefficients by comparing particular 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.

Update

For the 2014-15 school year student transportation allocation, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will use the student transportation reports and expenditure data for the 2013–14 school year to determine the formula coefficients. The expenditure data for the 2013–14 school year will be available in December 2014.

The 2014–15 school year allocation is unique in being the first payment calculated under the full implementation of STARS. Typically, the payments for the September through January time period are based on the prior year apportionment, with an adjustment in February to reflect current year reported data. Since the expected 2014–15 final apportionment amounts will vary significantly from the 2013–14 payments, the September through January payments will be based on OSPI’s calculation of the amount that each district would have received if STARS was fully implemented in the 2013–14 school year. The February adjustment will adjust the estimated amounts to actual calculated apportionments based on the data collected in the 2013–14 spring report and the 2014–15 fall and winter reports. The individual district estimated allocations are available on OSPI’s website at: [http://www.k12.wa.us/SAPS/Misc/BudPrep14/Estimated%2014-15%20Transportation%20Allocations.xlsx](http://www.k12.wa.us/SAPS/Misc/BudPrep14/Estimated%2014-15%20Transportation%20Allocations.xlsx)

The data elements to be reported by school districts are:

1. 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;
2. Special program student counts by category: special education, gifted, bilingual, early education (district operated Head Start, district operated Early Childhood Education Assistance Program and other district operation early education program), and McKinney-Vento students;
3. The average distance from each school bus stop to the corresponding destination;
4. The number of destinations (schools or learning centers) served;
5. For non-high school districts, if the districts provide transportation service for resident high school students; and
6. The total land area of the district (land area such as national parks and forest areas not provided with transportation services are excluded).

For the 2013–14 school year, the collection of the number of kindergarten routes was expanded to include a count of all mid-day routes including shuttles. Calculations based on the fall 2013 report indicated that this change did not result in statistical significance and collection of this data will be discontinued in 2014–15.

Reimbursement for mileage used in providing home-to-school transportation in district motor pool vehicles will be reimbursed at the private vehicle rate in effect on September 1, 2014. During each reporting period, school districts are required to provide an estimate for the total district car mileage for the school year. The actual district car mileage is required to be reported prior to July 15th of each year.

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at (360) 725-6162 or P.O. Box 47200 Olympia, WA 98504-7200.

Download this material in PDF at www.k12.wa.us/LegisGov/Reports.aspx. This material is available in alternative format upon request. Contact the Resource Center at (888) 595-3276, TTY (360) 664-3631. Please refer to this document number for quicker service: 14-0034.