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# **UPDATE: The Allocation Basis for Student Transportation**

**2015**

Authorizing legislation: [RCW 28A.160.180 \(4\)](#)  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.160.180>

**K–12 Financial Resources**

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## 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 2015–16 school year student transportation allocation, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will use the student transportation reports and expenditure data for the 2014–15 school year to determine the formula coefficients. The expenditure data for the 2014–15 school year will be available in December 2015.

The 2015–16 school year allocation will be the second payment calculated under the full implementation of STARS. The payments for the September through January time period will be based on the 2014–15 school year apportionment, 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 2014–15 spring report and the 2015–16 fall and winter reports. The individual district allocations are available on OSPI’s website at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/transportation/STARS/default.aspx> under “Funding Reports.”

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 (OSPI provides the district land area and excludes categories such as national parks and forest areas not provided with transportation services).

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, 2015. 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.

The September through January allocation will include whatever salary and benefit adjustments are provided by the legislature in the Omnibus Appropriations Act using expenditure data from the 2013–14 school year. These amounts will be corrected in February 2016 based on the 2014–15 school year salary and benefit data.

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