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UPDATE: Implementation of the New Student Transportation Funding System

December 2014

Authorizing legislation: RCW 28A.160.1921

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.160.1921>

K–12 Financial Resources

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Executive Summary

Initial implementation of the new student transportation funding system is complete. The estimated school district allocation for transportation operations for the 2014–15 school year based on 2013–14 data is being used as the allocation basis for the September 2014 through January 2015 time period. The February allocation will be adjusted to actual reported data from the Spring 2014, Fall 2014, and Winter 2015 reporting periods. This is the final update report.

Background

The 2010 Washington State Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 2776, which set the initial implementation date for the new Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS) as September 1, 2011. The General Instructions for Data Collection and the Detailed Guidance for Data Collection are available on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website, under “STARS Reference Material” at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/transportation/STARS/default.aspx>. 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 on OSPI’s website on the STARS page referenced above, under “Quarterly Reports.”

Update Status

The 2014–15 school year marks the full implementation of the STARS system. Estimated amounts for district transportation allocations for the 2014–15 school year based on data reported for the 2013–14 school year are available on the School Apportionment and Financial Services website at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SAFS/Misc/BudPrep14/Estimated%2014-15%20Transportation%20Allocations.xlsx>.

The estimated amounts will be used for the September 2014 through January 2015 allocation payments with the adjustments to actual allocation taking place at the end of February.

The regional transportation coordinators’ reviews of districts with STARS efficiency system ratings less than 90% are available on the STARS website shown above, under “STARS Efficiency Ratings”. There are three variations in the reports: a report for districts whose efficiency rating was above 90% last year but are below 90% this year, a report of any identifiable operational changes that resulted in the increase of efficiency ratings by those districts less than 90% last year and now above 90%; and a report that reviews the status of districts whose ratings continue below 90%.

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