



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Student Transportation Allocation Determination

2020

Authorizing Legislation: RCW [28A.160.180 \(4\)](#)

Financial Resources

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Superintendent of Public Instruction 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 2020–21 regression analysis will use 2019–20 allocation totals instead of direct expenditures due to COVID–19 related school closures and loss of accurate data.

INTRODUCTION

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. Due to the uncertainty of data due to COVID-19, allocation data will be used in place of direct expenditure data for the regression analysis.

Update Status

For the 2020–21 school year student transportation allocation, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will use the student transportation reports, operations allocation from the 2019–20 school year less the 2018-19 to 2019-20 carryover amounts, and certain district data elements to determine the formula coefficients. At that time, OSPI will perform the regression analysis to determine the coefficients used to calculate the student transportation allocations for 2020–21.

The Data Elements Reported by School Districts Are:

- 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, 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;
- 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; and
- 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 payments for the September through January time period will be based on the 2019–20 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 2019–20 spring report and the 2020–21 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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