Chapter 392-141 WAC
TRANSPORTATION—STATE ALLOCATION FOR OPERATIONS

WAC


392-141-055 Disposition of sections formerly codified in this chapter.


WAC 392-141-300 Authority and purpose. The authority for this chapter is RCW 28A.150.290 which authorizes the superintendent of public instruction to adopt rules and regulations for the administration of chapter 28A.150 RCW, which includes student transportation programs, RCW 28A.160.030, which includes individual and in-lieu transportation arrangements, RCW 28A.160.160 which includes hazardous walking conditions, and RCW 28A.191 which includes the transportation reporting requirements. The purpose of this chapter is to establish the method for the alloca-
tion of funding for the operation of public school student transportation programs.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.150.290, WSR 15-11-075, § 392-141-300, filed 5/19/15, effective 6/19/15; WSR 11-15-007, § 392-141-300, filed 7/7/11, effective 8/7/11.]

WAC 392-141-310 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Superintendent" means the superintendent of public instruction.

(2) "District" means either a school district or an educational service district.

(3) "Charter school" means a public school operating under the provisions of chapter 28A.710 RCW.

(4) The definition of "school" includes learning centers or other agencies where educational services are provided.

(5) "Eligible student" means any student served by a district or charter school transportation program either by bus, district car, or individual arrangements meeting one or more of the following criteria:

(a) A student whose route stop is outside the walk area of the student's enrollment school site; or

(b) A student whose disability is defined by RCW 28A.155.020 and who is either not ambulatory or not capable of protecting his or her own welfare while traveling to or from school.

Districts determine which students are provided with transportation services; however, only eligible students qualify for funding under the operations allocation.

(6) "To and from transportation" means all transportation between route stops and schools both before and after the school day. To and from transportation includes transportation between home and school and transportation between schools, commonly referred to as shuttles. Transportation not authorized for state allocations under this definition includes, but is not limited to, transportation for students participating in nonacademic extended day programs, field trips, and extracurricular activities.

(7) "Home to school transportation" means all student transportation between route stops and schools both before and after the school day. Home to school transportation does not include transportation between schools.

(8) "Basic program transportation" means students transported between home and school for their basic education. Basic program transportation includes those students who qualify under RCW 28A.155.020 for special services and are capable of protecting his or her own welfare while traveling to or from school and those students who are enrolled in gifted or bilingual programs or homeless students that do not require specialized transportation. Also included in basic program transportation is transportation required to comply with the school choice provisions of the Elementary Secondary Education Act.

(9) "Special program transportation" means home to school transportation for one of the following specialized programs:

(a) Special education programs provided for by chapter 28A.155 RCW and where transportation as a related service is included on the student's individual education plan or where transportation is required under the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

(b) Students who require special transportation to a bilingual program in a centralized location; or

(c) Students who require special transportation to a gifted program in a centralized location; or

(d) Students who require special transportation to their school of origin as required by the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or

(e) Students who require special transportation to a district operated head start, district operated early childhood education assistance program, or other district operated early education program.

(10) "Kindergarten route" means a school bus providing home to school transportation for basic education kindergarten students operated between the beginning and end of the school day.

(11) "Private party contract" means the provision of home to school transportation service using a private provider (not in a school bus). Private party contracts shall require criminal background checks of drivers and other adults with unsupervised access to students and assurances that any students transported be provided with child safety restraint systems that are age and weight appropriate. Vehicles used must meet school bus specifications established in chapter 392-143 WAC if they have a manufacturer's design capacity of greater than ten passengers, including the driver. However, a vehicle manufactured to meet the federal specifications of a multifunction school activity bus may be used.

(12) "In lieu transportation" means a contract to provide home to school transportation with a parent, guardian or adult student, including transportation on rural roads to access a school bus stop.

(13) "Count period" is the three consecutive school day window used for establishing the reported student count on home to school routes.

(14) The school year is divided into three "report periods," as follows: September - October, November - January, and February - April. These report periods are also referred to respectively as the fall, winter and spring reports. The count period must not fall within five school days of the end of the report period.

(15) "Combined student count" is the total number of basic program or special program eligible student riders reported during each report period. The combined student counts for the determination of funding consist of the prorated basic program and special program student counts from the prior year's spring report and the current year's fall and winter reports. The prior school year's fall, winter and spring student counts are used for the determination of the efficiency rating. The combined student counts are prorated based on the number of months in the respective report period. For a charter school in the first year of operation, the current year's fall count shall be used as the prior year's fall count to determine the combined student count.

(16) "Average distance to school" means the average of the distances from each school bus stop measured by the shortest road path to the assigned student's school of enrollment.

(17) "Prorated average distance" is calculated by taking the average distance to school weighted by the number of
months in the corresponding report period. The prorated average distance used in calculating district allocation consists of the prorated average distance from the prior year's spring report and the current year's fall and winter reports. The prior school year's fall, winter and spring average distances are used for the determination of the efficiency rating.

(18) "Prorated number of destinations" is calculated by taking the number of learning centers a school district provides with home-to-school transportation service weighted by the number of months in the corresponding report period. The prorated number of destinations used in calculating district allocation consists of the prorated number of destinations from the prior year's spring report and the current year's fall and winter reports. The prior school year's fall, winter, and spring number of destinations are used for the determination of the efficiency rating.

(19) "Land area" is the area of the school district in square miles, excluding water and public lands, as determined by the superintendent. For educational service districts, the land area value will be determined by the superintendent from the contiguous area provided with transportation service.

(20) "Roadway miles" refers to the number of public roadway miles within the land area of the school district, as determined by the superintendent. For educational service districts, the roadway mile value will be determined by the superintendent from the roadway miles within the contiguous area provided with transportation service.

(21) "Walk area" is defined as the area around a school where the shortest safe walking route to school is less than one mile.

(22) "District car route" means home to school transportation where a district motor pool vehicle (not a school bus) is used to transport an eligible student or students. Any regularly scheduled home to school transportation in a district car is required to be driven by an authorized school bus driver.

(23) "District car allocation" is calculated by multiplying the total annual district car route mileage by the rate of reimbursement per mile that is authorized for state employees for the use of private motor vehicles in connection with state business in effect on September 1st of each year.

(24) A "low ridership district" is defined as a district with an annual student count less than two hundred eighteen students.

(25) A "nonhigh" district is defined as a district meeting the eligibility requirements for a nonhigh district as established by the superintendent of public instruction's school apportionment and financial services section.

(26) A "transportation cooperative" is defined as two or more districts sharing transportation operations administrative functions. An interdistrict agreement for the provision of maintenance services on school buses does not constitute a transportation cooperative for the purposes of this chapter, regardless if the agreement qualifies as a transportation cooperative under the provisions of chapter 392-346 WAC, unless shared operations administrative functions are also included in the interdistrict agreement. A transportation cooperative has the option of reporting as a single entity.

(27) "Alternate funding system" means an additional funding system as provided in RCW 28A.160.191, defined by OSPI to adjust the allocation for low enrollment school districts, nonhigh school districts, school districts participating in interdistrict transportation cooperatives, and educational service districts operating special transportation services.

(28) "Expected allocation" means the initial amount of funding resulting from the regression analysis calculation.

(29) "Adjusted allocation" means the expected allocation plus any alternate funding system, calendar, or legislative adjustments.

(30) For a district, "actual allocation" means the lesser of the previous year's actual reported transportation expenditures including adjustments by the legislature or the adjusted allocation. For a charter school, the actual allocation is a final amount to be allocated for transportation services using the process described in this chapter, plus any funding provided under chapter 392-142 WAC.

(31) "Efficiency evaluation" refers to the statistical evaluation of efficiency of a district's transportation operation using linear programming of the data required by the funding formula and the number of buses used on home-to-school routes. Each district is separately compared to an individualized statistical model of a district having similar site characteristics. The efficiency evaluation is expressed as a percentage efficiency rating.

(32) A district's "transportation funding percentage" is calculated by dividing the district's actual allocation by the district's approved to-and-from transportation expenditures.

(33) The "state median percent funded" is determined by calculating each district's transportation funding percentage and taking the median value by sorting the total number of reporting districts in descending order and selecting the middle value. If there is an even number of districts, the bottom value in the top half shall be used.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.150.290. WSR 15-11-075, § 392-141-310, filed 5/19/15, effective 6/19/15; WSR 13-17-110, § 392-141-310, filed 8/21/13, effective 9/21/13; WSR 11-15-007, § 392-141-310, filed 7/7/11, effective 8/7/11.]

WAC 392-141-320 Reporting requirements. (1) Reports shall be submitted by each district or charter school to the superintendent no later than the last business day in October, the first business day in February, and the first business day in May. These reports shall reflect to the extent practical the planned student transportation program for the entire report period and which is in operation during the ridership count period. The superintendent shall have the authority to make modifications or adjustments in accordance with the intent of RCW 28A.160.150. Each district or charter school shall submit the data required on a timely basis as a condition to the continuing receipt of student transportation allocations.

(2) In each report period, districts shall report such operational data and descriptions, as required by the superintendent to determine the operations allocation for each district, including:

(a) School bus route information;
(b) Student count information; and
(c) An update to the estimated total car mileage for the current school year.

(3) For the fall report, districts shall report to the superintendent as required:
(a) An annual school bus mileage report including the total to and from school bus miles for the previous school year, and other categories as requested;

(b) An annual report of each type of fuel purchased for student transportation service for the previous school year, including quantity and cost; and

(c) An annual report as required by RCW 28A.300.540 of the number of students transported to their school of origin as required by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for the previous school year, and the total mileage and additional cost of such transportation. These costs may include, but are not limited to:

(i) Transportation service that serves only student(s) under McKinney-Vento. Districts may determine costs based upon route mileage and an average per mile cost for operation of the bus or vehicle. Driver time may be taken from actual driver costs records if such records are maintained, or may be determined using an average driver costs factor.

(ii) Incremental revisions in route at the start or end of a route to accommodate McKinney-Vento transportation, if separately identified, may be included based upon route mileage and an average per mile cost for operation of the bus or vehicle.

(iii) Costs for public transportation or other contracted services for transporting McKinney-Vento student(s).

(iv) Nondriver transportation staff positions whose job duties are predominately overseeing or routing services to McKinney-Vento students. If the position duties encompass other non-McKinney-Vento areas, then only the costs directly related to McKinney-Vento transportation shall be included and such costs shall be determined using federal time and effort reporting procedures.

No indirect or allocated costs may be included in this reporting.

(4) In each report period, charter schools shall report student counts.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.150.290. WSR 15-11-075, § 392-141-320, filed 5/19/15, effective 6/19/15; WSR 13-17-110, § 392-141-320, filed 8/21/13, effective 9/21/13; WSR 11-15-007, § 392-141-320, filed 7/7/11, effective 8/7/11.]

**WAC 392-141-330 School bus driver daily logs.** Districts shall require drivers to maintain a daily route log that includes the school bus driver’s name, bus number, route number, destinations and student counts by destination, pre-trip and posttrip verification, with the date and school bus driver’s signature. These daily route logs shall be completed in ink and shall be maintained in the district files in accordance with the district record retention schedule. Electronic data collection systems or files may be used for any of this information.

Daily route logs are required to be completed at least once each week. If a district does not require daily route logs on a daily basis, the district must ensure that during each report period a daily log is collected on at least one additional weekday corresponding to each of the days of the count period.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.150.290. WSR 15-11-075, § 392-141-330, filed 5/19/15, effective 6/19/15; WSR 11-15-007, § 392-141-330, filed 7/7/11, effective 8/7/11.]

**WAC 392-141-340 Determination of the walk area.** (1) Each district or charter school shall determine the walk area for each school building or learning center where students are enrolled, attend class and transportation is provided. The district or charter school is required to use a process to determine the walk area that involves as many of the following groups as possible: Parents, school administrators, law enforcement representatives, traffic engineers, public health or walking advocates and other interested parties. Hazardous conditions requiring transportation service will be documented and will include all roadways, environmental and social conditions included in the evaluation process. The process will be consistent with the one described in School Walk and Bike Routes: A Guide for Planning and Improving Walk and Bike to School Options for Students published by the Washington state department of transportation.

(2) The process will identify preferred walking routes from each neighborhood to each elementary school as required by RCW 28A.160.160(5). Walk areas will be reviewed as conditions change or every two years.

(3) Districts and charter schools are allowed to provide transportation service within the walk area, but basic program students who are provided transportation from school bus stops within the walk area are not eligible for funding. It is the responsibility of each district or charter school to ensure that noneligible students who are provided with transportation service within the walk area are correctly reported during the count period.

(4) A district or charter school is not required to document the process used to determine that transportation will not be provided from an area. Districts and charter schools are only required to document the process used to make a decision to transport within one road mile of a school if such transportation is provided due to hazardous conditions and those students are reported for funding.


**WAC 392-141-350 Authorization and limitation on district payments for individual and in lieu transportation arrangements.** Districts may commit to individual transportation or in lieu arrangements subject to approval by the educational service district superintendent or his or her designee. The following arrangements and limitations apply:

(1) A district shall contract with the custodial parent, parent, guardian(s), person(s) in loco parentis, or adult student(s) to pay the lesser of the following in lieu of transportation provided to each student:

(a) Mileage and tolls for home to school transportation (in whole or part) for not more than two necessary round trips per school day, unless additional trips are required due to the provisions of the student’s individualized education program; or

(b) Mileage and tolls for home to school transportation for not more than five round trips per school year, plus room and board.

(2) The in lieu of transportation mileage, tolls and board and room rates of reimbursement which a district is hereby authorized to pay shall be computed as follows:
WAC 392-141-360 Operation allocation computation. (1) The operation allocation shall be calculated using the following factors:
(a) The combined student count of basic program students;
(b) The combined student count of special program students;
(c) The district's prorated average distance;
(d) The district's total land area;
(e) The district's prorated number of destinations;
(f) If the district is a nonhigh district, the answer to the following question: Does the district provide transportation service for the high school students residing in the district?
(g) Any other district data element as described by the superintendent in the annual operations bulletin. In order for a data element to be included, it must be found to be statistically significant for two consecutive school years.

For each district, an expected allocation is determined using the coefficients resulting from a regression analysis of (a) through (g) of this subsection, evaluated statewide against the prior school year's total and to from transportation expenditures. If a data element is determined not to be statistically significant, it shall not be included in the calculation of the allocation. The coefficients will be determined using the prior school year fall, winter, and spring reports and prior school year expenditures.

(2) For the calculation of the regression analysis coefficients, the allowable transportation expenditures for each district shall be adjusted as required by the legislature.

(3) The adjusted allocation is the result of modifying the expected allocation by:
(a) Adding any district car mileage reimbursement; and
(b) Adding any adjustment resulting from the alternate funding systems identified in WAC 392-141-380; and
(c) Making any deduction resulting from an alternate school year calendar approved by the state board of education under the provisions of RCW 28A.305.141; and
(d) Making any adjustment as required by the legislature.

(4) Each district's actual allocation for student transportation operations is the lesser of the prior school year's total allowable student transportation expenditures adjusted as required by the legislature or the adjusted allocation. Districts contracting for student transportation operations shall have any payments in lieu of depreciation under the provisions of WAC 392-142-245 deducted from the district's allowable transportation expenditures.

(5) The funding assumption for the transportation operation allocation is that kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12, or whatever grades are enrolled in district schools) school transportation services are provided by the district five days per week, to and from school, before and after the regular school day and operating one hundred eighty days per school year. K-12 service being provided on any other basis is subject to corresponding proration of the operation allocation.

WAC 392-141-370 Transition and hold harmless provisions. (1) Until the allocation process described in WAC 392-141-360 is fully funded by the legislature, the transition process will prorate each district's transportation allocation to the extent funds are available based on the difference between the district's prior year's allocation and the district's allocation determined through the process described in WAC 392-141-360.

(2) During the transition, each school district shall receive the lesser of the previous school year's student transportation operations allocation as adjusted by the legislature or the total of allowable transportation expenditures identified on the previous school year's final expenditure report plus district indirect expenses calculated using the federal restricted indirect rate calculated in the district annual financial report and any legislative adjustments.

WAC 392-141-375 Funding calculation for charter schools. For a charter school, the per-student allocation for student transportation is calculated using the actual allocation for the previous school year for the district in which the charter school is located, divided by the district's prior year's combined student count. This per-student amount is provided to the charter school based on the charter school's current year combined student count.

WAC 392-141-380 Alternate funding systems for low enrollment districts, nonhigh districts, districts participating in interdistrict transportation cooperatives, and educational service districts operating special transportation services. After the transition period described in WAC 392-141-370, the superintendent shall adjust the amount of the transportation operation allocation for low ridership, non-high, districts in interdistrict transportation cooperatives, and

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.150.290. WSR 15-11-075, § 392-141-360, filed 5/19/15, effective 6/19/15.]

[Ch. 392-141 WAC p. 7]
WAC 392-141-390 Allocation schedule for state payments. The superintendent shall apportion the transportation operation allocation according to the schedule in RCW 28A.510.250. Such allocation may be based on estimated amounts for payments made in September, October, November, December, and January. Prior to the 15th of January of each year the superintendent shall notify districts of the regression analysis coefficients to be used in the calculation of district transportation allocation.

WAC 392-141-400 Efficiency evaluation review. (1) Each district's efficiency evaluation will be reviewed annually by the regional transportation coordinators. If a district's efficiency rating is less than ninety percent, the regional transportation coordinator shall review the district's transportation operation to identify the factors impacting the ability of the district to operate an efficient student transportation system. Such factors will include those within the district's controls and those factors that are beyond the district's control.

(2) Completed regional transportation coordinator reports on the review of district efficiency evaluation will be provided to the legislature prior to December 1st of each year. Districts will be provided an opportunity to respond to the conclusions of the regional transportation coordinator evaluation and such comments will be included in the report to the legislature. Also included in the report are any actions identified by a district in response to the regional transportation coordinator evaluation.

WAC 392-141-410 Recovery of transportation funds. The superintendent of public instruction shall recover (take back) state pupil transportation allocations that are not expended for the allowable student transportation program costs under the accounting guidance provided by the superintendent. The amount of the recovery shall be calculated as follows:

(1) Determine the district's state allocation for student transportation operations for the school year.

(2) Determine the district's allowable student transportation costs as follows:

(a) Sum the following amounts:

(i) The district's direct expenditures for general fund program 99 pupil transportation, and for educational service district student transportation operations expenditures in program 70 transportation excluding expenditures associated with the regional coordinator and bus driver training grants;

(ii) Allowable indirect charges equal to the expenditures as calculated pursuant to (a)(i) of this subsection times the state recovery rate as calculated in the district annual financial report;

(b) Subtract the district's revenues for the school year for revenue account 7199 (transportation revenues from other districts).

(3) If the allowable program costs are less than the state allocation, OSPI shall recover the difference.

Funds transferred into the transportation vehicle fund shall not be included as allowable transportation program costs for recovery calculations.

WAC 392-141-420 District recordkeeping requirements. All data and forms necessary to develop the district's student transportation report shall be maintained in accordance with the district record retention schedule and shall include the following:

(1) All school bus route logs and school bus driver daily logs including those required in WAC 392-141-330. If student lists are maintained for each school bus route, a copy (electronic or paper) of the list in effect for each count period;

(2) All documentation used to verify the number of students boarding the bus at bus stops within the walk area of their school of enrollment;

(3) All documentation used to report and verify the location of school bus stops used in home to school transportation, including school destinations and transfer points;

(4) All documentation used to develop the annual school bus mileage report;

(5) All documentation used to develop the annual fuel report;

(6) All documentation used to develop the annual report of McKinney-Vento Homeless Act transportation;

(7) All documentation used to develop the district car mileage report;

(8) Copies of any and all correspondence, publications, or other materials distributed to parents describing the transportation funding process. Districts may provide educational material regarding the funding process for student transportation. However, districts may not promote or publicize specific count periods. Districts shall not utilize incentive programs that provide tangible gifts to reward increases in ridership counts; and

(9) Other operational data and descriptions, as required by the superintendent to determine the operation allocation requirements for each district.

[Ch. 392-141 WAC p.8]
WAC 392-141-430 Charter school recordkeeping requirements. All data and forms necessary to develop the charter school's student transportation report shall be maintained in accordance with the charter school's record retention schedule and shall include the following:

1. Any school bus route logs or school bus driver daily logs for each count period;
2. All documentation used to calculate the combined student count for each report period; and
3. All documentation used to calculate the number of students boarding the bus at bus stops within the walk area of their school of enrollment.

Charter schools shall not promote or publicize specific count periods or utilize incentive programs that provide tangible gifts to reward ridership during specific time periods.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.150.290. WSR 15-11-075, § 392-141-430, filed 5/19/15, effective 6/19/15; WSR 11-15-007, § 392-141-420, filed 7/7/11, effective 8/7/11.]