



School Transportation Funding

House
K-12 Finance
Work Group

House Appropriations and Education Committees
K-12 Finance Workgroup

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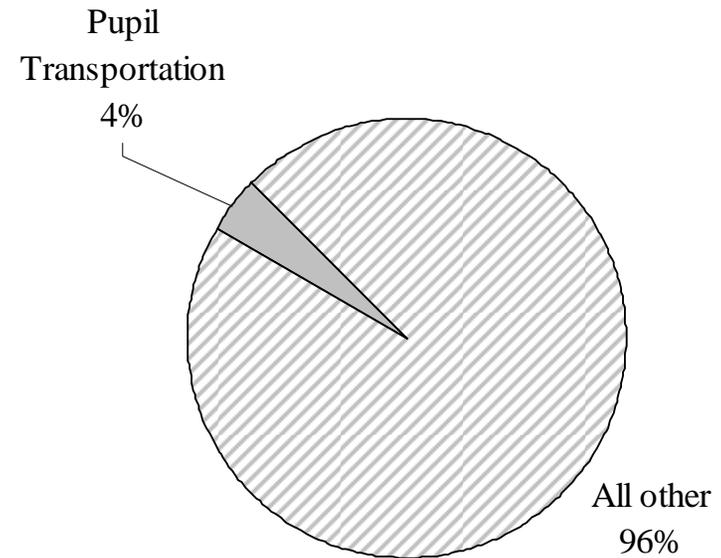


The Pupil Transportation Program makes up about 4 percent of state K-12 funding.

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State K-12 Funding 2003-05 Biennium \$s in Millions

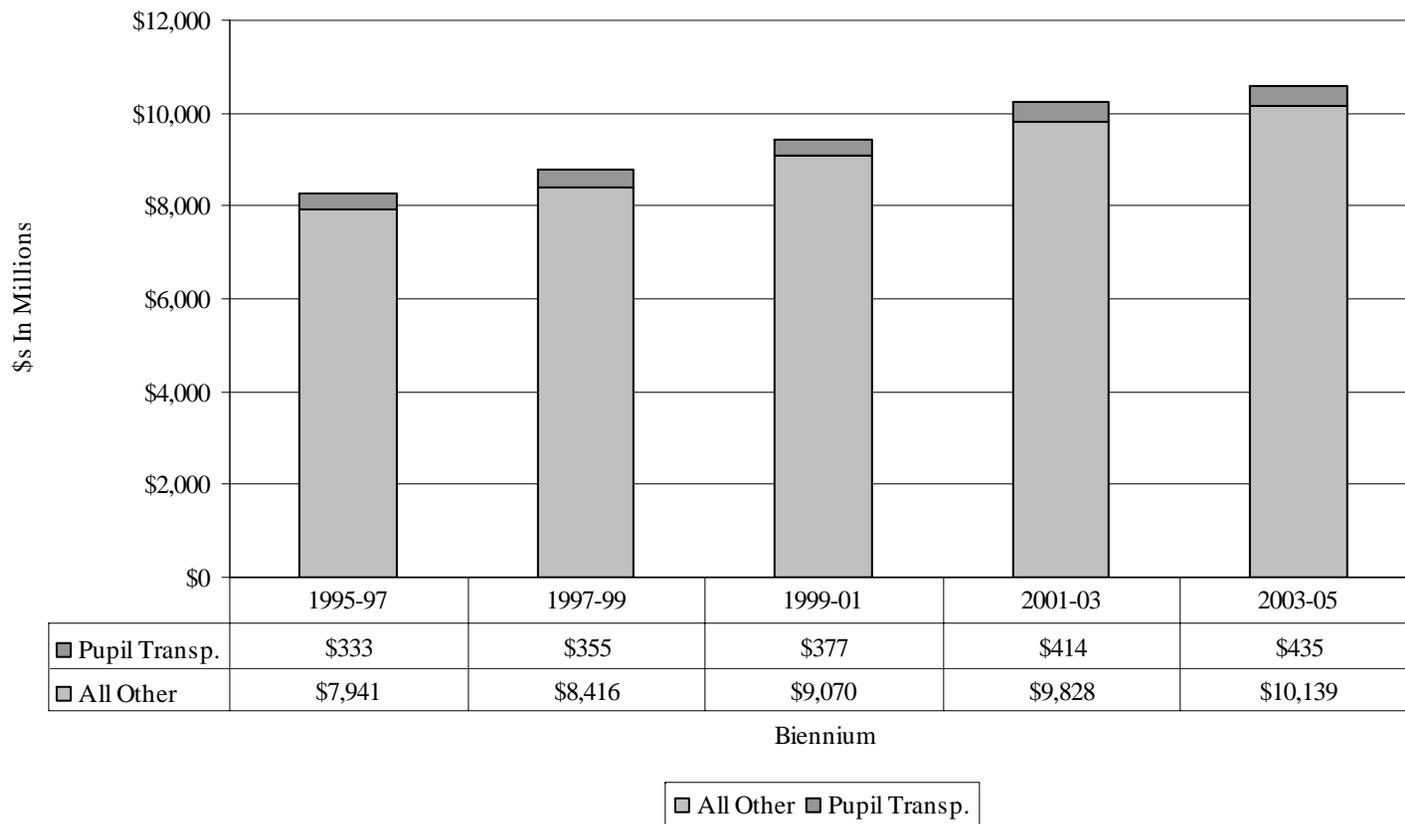
General Apportionment	\$7,965
Special Education	862
Pupil Transportation	435
Student Achievement Program	410
Levy Equalization	329
Compensation Adjustments	161
Learning Assistance Program	127
Transitional Bilingual Instruction	105
All Other	<u>181</u>
Total	\$10,575





Pupil Transportation funding has grown at about the same rate as total state K-12 funding.

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Washington State School Transportation Facts

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- ❖ 9,300 School Buses
- ❖ 10,300 School Bus Drivers
- ❖ 484,000 Students Transported Per Day
- ❖ 500,000 Miles Per Day



State Transportation Program Funding

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1. School Bus Reimbursement
2. Operations Allocation



School Bus Reimbursement

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- ❖ Straight depreciation for contracting school districts
- ❖ Replacement money for district-operated transportation
- ❖ Replacement is based on current state quote price. As the price varies, the cost to the state varies for all buses in the system. (Challenge: budget forecasting)
- ❖ School districts must front-fund buses. (Challenges: suburban areas and S/E)
- ❖ FY 2004 Reimbursement
 - ▶ Contractors \$6.4 Million
 - ▶ District-operated \$20 Million



Operations Allocation - Workload

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The number of students transported from route stops to learning centers (schools, skill centers, etc.) and the straight line distances between route stops and destinations.



Operations Allocation - Funded Workload

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- ❖ Transportation activities authorized in RCW 28A.160.160
- ❖ Funded transportation includes:
 - ▶ To and from home and school in school buses
 - ▶ passes or tokens used on local transit systems
 - ▶ midday kindergarten in school buses
 - ▶ district car transportation of students
 - ▶ shuttles between learning centers for instruction mandated by statute
 - ▶ in lieu of transportation payments made to parents or guardians



Operations Allocation - Unfunded Workload

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- ❖ Transportation services commonly provided by school districts but not funded.
- ❖ Unfunded transportation includes:
 - ▶ “Ineligible students” (bus stops within one mile of school; partial funding through K5 allocation)
 - ▶ academic related field trips
 - ▶ extracurricular trips
 - ▶ extended school day take home trips
 - ▶ after school activity take home trips



Operations Allocation - Adjustment Factors

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- ❖ Distance Weighting Factor – A multiplier used to adjust for generalized geographic factors and other parameters.
- ❖ Minimum Load Factor - Workload adjustment for low average basic bus loads.
- ❖ Special Load Factor – Workload adjustment for special transportation due to higher costs and lower average loads.
 - ▶ Includes transportation of some special education, homeless, bilingual and gifted students.



Operations Allocation - Allocation Rate

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- ❖ Workload is converted to dollars using a standard funding rate per workload unit.
 - ▶ Allocation rate for 2003-04: \$39.43
 - ▶ Allocation rate for 2004-05: \$40.66



Operations Allocation – Basic Example

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Annual allocation for one basic student at two miles:

$$\begin{aligned} &1 \text{ (number of students)} \times \\ &3.20 \text{ (distance weighting factor for 2 miles)} \times \\ &2 \text{ (number of round trips per day)} \times \\ &\$39.43 \text{ (allocation rate)} = \$252.35 \text{ (per school year)} \end{aligned}$$

(example does not include minimum load factor)



Operations Allocation – Special Example

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Annual allocation for one special student at two miles:

1 (number of students) x

4.89 (distance weighting factor for 2 miles) x

2 (number of round trips per day) x

24.42 (Special Load Factor) x

\$39.43 (allocation rate) = \$9,297.65 (per school year)



Operations Allocation – K-5 Allocation

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- ❖ Based on number of K-5 students within one radius mile of school of enrollment.
- ❖ The K-5 Allocation Formula:
 - Number of K-5 students within one mile
 - x 1.29 (multiplier)
 - x \$39.43 (2003-04 allocation rate)
 - = K-5 Allocation
- ❖ Allocation may be used for:
 - ▶ Transportation within one radius mile
 - ▶ Roadway improvements
 - ▶ Hiring adult crossing guards
- ❖ FY 2004 = \$12.4 Million



Operations Allocation – Challenges

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- ❖ Unfunded transportation (including that required to provide academic programs)
- ❖ Increasing traffic congestion
- ❖ Demand for salary increases in order to attract school bus drivers
- ❖ Parent demand for transportation within one radius mile
- ❖ Data complexity – reporting complexity



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Thank you for your support
in keeping kids safe!