

School Transportation Funding and Reporting



Spring ISD



Legal References

The provision of transportation funding is governed by the Texas Education Code (TEC), §48.151, and the requirements found in the TEA's School Transportation Allotment Handbook.

Effective with the passage of House Bill 3, by the 86th Legislature, each district or county operating a regular transportation system is entitled to an allotment based on a rate per mile per regular eligible student set by the legislature in the General Appropriations Act. The General Appropriations Act: Article III establishes the funding rates for eligible transportation.

Other TEC provisions related to school student transportation include:

- TEC, §34.002 - Department of Public Safety (DPS) will establish safety standards for school buses
- TEC, §34.003 - Establishes the type of vehicles that may be used to transport students
- TEC, §34.007 - School boards may establish economical public school transportation systems and states that school bus drivers must meet the standards and qualifications adopted by the DPS



Background Information

The Legislature provides funding assistance to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that provide student transportation. Transportation funding is available for several types of eligible services:

- **Regular transportation:** Home-to-school or school-to-home transportation for eligible students who live more than two miles from their campus of regular attendance. Eligible students include children who are homeless, according to the classification set by the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. May include hazardous or high-risk area transportation for eligible students who live two miles or less from their campus and reside in an area designated by the school board as hazardous due to traffic conditions or a high risk of violence. The district must submit a copy of its initial policy to establish eligibility for hazardous or high-risk area transportation.
- **Special transportation:** Transportation for students with special needs who require specialized transportation to attend school.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) transportation:** Transportation during the school day for regular or special program students to attend a Texas Education Agency approved CTE course that is not available at their campus of attendance or to attend a work-based learning center.
- **Private transportation:** In cases of extreme hardship, funding may be available when a parent or the parent's designated agent must transport a student to or from school and the district reimburses the parent for the mileage.

Transportation Funding Rates

Funding rates are established through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and are based on the type of transportation related route and eligible services provided.

- Regular Routes – \$1.00 per total eligible regular route service mileage.
- Special Routes – \$1.13 per total eligible special route service mileage, or the prior year's special route service cost per mile, whichever is less.
- CTE Routes – Preceding school year regular route cost per mile per total eligible CTE-route-service mileage.
- Private Routes – \$0.25 per mile, with funding capped at \$816 per pupil.

Statewide Transportation Allotment

Table provides the statewide transportation allotment total for the past several years.

Year	Statewide Transportation Allotment
2022-2023	\$395,246,091
2023-2024	\$402,856,856
2024-2025	\$410,968,999
2025-2026*	\$423,631,912
2026-2027**	\$423,744,512

*Near Final

**Legislative Planning Estimate

Annual State Reporting

School districts and open-enrollment charter schools report student transportation information to the TEA through two annual reports, the Route Services Report and the Operations Report. Districts submit these two annual transportation reports through the online web-based Foundation School Program (FSP) Payment System after the school year has completed.

The primary source of information for determining the district's transportation allotment is through the Route Services Report. For the Route Services Report, district's report eligible student transportation services (mileage and ridership) provided during the school year.

For the Operations Report, district's report all costs, and mileage associated with student transportation. The Operations report therefore includes all costs related to eligible student transportation services and in-eligible student transportation services such as field trips or sports activities. The Operations report also includes a section for the district to provide information on student transportation vehicle inventory.

The annual state reporting deadlines are as follows:

- August 1 – Route Services Report
- December 1 – Operations Report



Program Description

The transportation allotment is part of FSP funding and is a separate line item on the Summary of Finances. For more information and resources, review the [School Transportation Funding](#) webpage.



Contact for More Information

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