

High Cost Pupil Transportation Aid Program Updated April 2016

2013 Wisconsin Act 20 (Section 121.59, Wisconsin Statutes,) created a new categorical aid program providing additional funding to school districts in Wisconsin that have higher per pupil transportation costs when compared to the statewide average per pupil transportation cost. Each district with a per pupil transportation cost exceeding one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the statewide average per pupil transportation cost will receive a share of this categorical aid. The appropriation is dispersed in June, of each year and the aid payment will be based on audited information from the previous fiscal year.

2015 Wisconsin Act 55 increased the appropriation from \$5,000,000 to 7,500,000. Act 55 also added a qualifier to the High Cost Pupil Transportation calculation process based on membership per square mile within the school district. **121.59 (1) (a) “Eligible school district” means a school district the membership of which in the previous, school year, when divided by the school district’s area in square miles, is 50 or less.**

The Department of Public Instruction will not receive complete audited data until later in the school year and due to the range of cost data from the participating school districts and 2R Charter schools we are not able to provide any estimated payments. The High Cost Transportation Aid payment is calculated with new data each year and making budgeting difficult.

Two pieces of information from the prior school year will be used to determine the school district payments:

1. Audited Transportation Cost (Fund 10 **only**).
Audited information is available in early April.
2. Audited Membership for the previous school year.
“**Membership**” is defined as the average of the resident FTE students enrolled on the third Friday of September and 2nd Friday of January (including part-time attendance by home-based or private school students), plus summer school and foster group home FTE. (Source: <https://apps4.dpi.wi.gov/sfsdw/MembershipFTEReport.aspx>)

The Calculation Process:

Phase I Determine if the school district qualifies to receive an aid payment.

- Step 1 Total the previous school year’s Audited Transportation Cost (Fund 10) for each school district.
- Step 2 Verify the “Eligible school districts” based on the previous school year’s Audited Membership for each school district.
- Step 3 (a) Determine the statewide transportation cost per member by dividing the Step 1 Total by Step 2 Total. (b) Multiply the quotient by 1.5 to determine the threshold to receive High Cost Transportation Aid.
- Step 4 Determine the district’s transportation cost per member by dividing the Audited Transportation Cost (Fund 10) by the Audited Membership.
- Step 5 Subtract the district’s transportation cost per member (Step 4) from 150% of statewide transportation cost per member (Step 3b). **If the remainder calculated is a positive value, the school district is eligible to receive a portion of the allocated funds.**

Phase II Determine the qualifying school district's High Cost Transportation aid amount.

- Step 6 Multiply the **eligible** district's previous year membership by the positive remainder calculated in Step 5 of Phase 1.
- Step 7 Total the values produced in Step 6 for all of the qualifying school districts.
- Step 8 Divide the **Total** in Step 7 by the Appropriation to determine the percentage share (product) that will be paid to each LEA.
- Step 9 For each eligible school district, multiply the Step 8 **product** times the school district's value under "FY—District's Tran. Cost over State Avg. Cost" calculated in Step 6 to determine the district's High Cost Transportation Aid payment.
- Step 10 Determine the members/squire mile by school district by previous school year's Audited Membership for each school district by squire miles per school district. **Any school district that exceeds 50 students per square mile will be deemed to be ineligible.**
- Step 11 Recalculate Steps 8 and 9 to reflect the adjustments.

To review previous year's payments please select one of the following links:

- [2015-16 High Cost Transportation Aid Amounts](#) (May 2, 2016)
- [2014-15 High Cost Transportation Aid Amounts](#) (May 1, 2015)
- [2013-14 High Cost Transportation Aid Amounts](#)

Please note that a district needs to use caution before assuming what the potential High Cost Transportation Aid amount will be in a future school year, due to the large amount of data that impacts the actual dispersed amounts.

Wisconsin Statutes Section 121.59 High Cost Transportation Aid.

- (1) In this section:
 - (a) "Eligible school district" means a school district the membership of which in the previous school year, when divided by the school district's area in square miles, is 50 or less.
 - (b) "Transportation costs" means costs that are eligible for reimbursement under s. [121.58](#).
- (2) Annually the department shall pay to each eligible school district the amount determined as follows:
 - (a) Divide the statewide school district transportation costs in the previous school year by the statewide membership in the previous school year and multiply the quotient by 1.5.
 - (b) Divide the school district's transportation costs in the previous school year by the school district's membership in the previous school year.
 - (c) Subtract the product under par. (a) from the quotient under par. (b).
 - (d) If the remainder under par. (c) is a positive number, multiply it by the school district's membership.
 - (e) Divide the product under par. (d) for the school district by the product under par. (d) for all eligible school districts.
 - (f) Multiply the quotient under par. (e) by the amount appropriated under s. [20.255 \(2\) \(cg\)](#).
- (3) Aid under this section shall be paid from the appropriation under s. [20.255 \(2\) \(cg\)](#).