

## **Drills – Fire, Tornado, Safety**

Under [Wisconsin Statutes 118.07](#) fire drills must be conducted at least once each month, tornado or other hazard drills twice per year, and school safety incidents twice per year.

Fire drills must be conducted at least once each month that the school is occupied with pupils. If all classes are virtual and there are no in-person classes, then drills do not have to be performed. This is similar to what occurs during the summer when classes are usually not being conducted.

If in-person classes are held, then drills must be conducted in accordance with the requirements. If there are concerns about having that many students in the hallways at one time, then drills may be conducted in phases, so each classroom is eventually covered.

According to statute, schools must annually file a report pertaining to such drills, on a form furnished by the Department of Safety and Professional Services, with the chief of the fire department. When no fire drill is held during any month, or when only one or no tornado or other hazard drill is held in a year, the person having direct charge of the school shall state the reasons in the report. View the [Wisconsin School District Record of Fire / Tornado / School Safety / Other Evacuation Drills report](#).

## **Transportation**

As a reminder, pupil transportation aid paid this year will be based upon ridership data reported for the prior year.

Districts and independent charter schools have a great deal of flexibility in when and how they determine the number of pupils receiving transportation.

- There is no requirement to have specific count dates for pupil transportation. The common practice of having two counts, one in the fall and one in the spring, is not specified in law.
- There is no requirement for the number of days a pupil must be transported in order to be counted.
- Pupils may be counted for aid whether transportation is provided with a traditional yellow school bus, contract with a parent or guardian, or other method allowed by law.

If a district does not transport a pupil, they may not be counted for pupil transportation aid.

High cost pupil transportation aid paid this year is also based on prior year data. DPI uses Fund 10 transportation costs reported in the districts' PI-1505 Annual Reports. Aid eligibility will vary based on transportation costs and qualifying high cost pupil transportation aid submissions.

Current law includes a "stop-gap" measure for school districts that fall out of eligibility because their costs declined the following year. This provision allows a district to receive aid in the current year with an aid payment equal to 50 percent of its prior year award in the year in which it became ineligible.