

Funding Pupil Transportation

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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Pupil Transportation Overview

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- Regular transportation
- Specialized transportation
- McKinney-Vento homeless transportation

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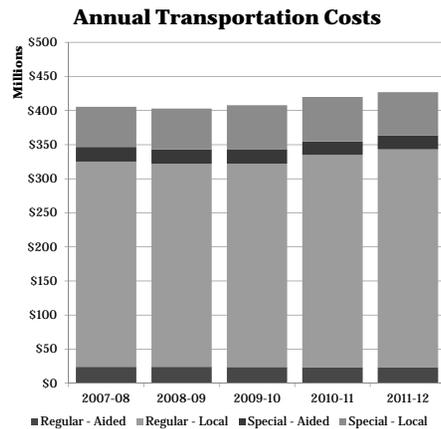
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From 2007-08
to 2011-12

**Transportation was
4% of total
school spending**

**7% of regular pupil
transportation costs
were aided**

**25% of specialized
transportation
costs were aided**



Sources: WI districts' reported Funds 10/27 costs under WUFAR function 256000; payment data for Pupil Transportation, Special Education categorical aids

Section 121.54(2), Wisconsin Statutes

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A pupil attending a public or private elementary or secondary school, including four- and five-year-old kindergarten, is *entitled* to transportation by the public school district in which the pupil resides **if the pupil resides two or more miles from the nearest public school the pupil is entitled to attend.**

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Pupil Transportation Aid

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- State pupil transportation aids are determined under the provisions of s. 121.58, Wis. Stats.
- The appropriation for reimbursement of transporting public and nonpublic school pupils, **who are actually transported**, is found in s. 20.255(2)(cr), Wis. Stats.
- The rates are set by statute.

Pupil Transportation Aid Rate Determination

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- Distances are measured from the pupil's residence to the school attended, following the shortest commonly traveled route.
- Half payment is made for pupils enrolled and **actually** transported less than 91 days (regular year) or less than 16 days (summer school).
- Pupil transportation aid for the current year is based on the number of children transported during the prior school year

Regular Transportation Aid Rates / Category

Category	Distance from Home to School	Period of Enrollment	Aid per Pupil effective 07-01-13
1	0-2 Miles (Hazardous Area Transportation) *	1-90 Days	\$7.50
2	Over 2 through 5 Miles	1-90 Days	\$17.50
3	Over 5 through 8 Miles	1-90 Days	\$27.50
4	Over 8 through 12 Miles	1-90 Days	\$55.00
5	Over 12 Miles	1-90 Days	\$137.50
6	0-2 Miles (Hazardous Area Transportation) *	Over 90 Days	\$15.00
7	Over 2 through 5 Miles	Over 90 Days	\$35.00
8	Over 5 through 8 Miles	Over 90 Days	\$55.00
9	Over 8 through 12 Miles	Over 90 Days	\$110.00
10	Over 12 Miles	Over 90 Days	\$275.00

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Summer School Categories

Note that the rate for 15 or less days is 50% of rate when Summer School goes over 15 days.

Distance from Home to School	Period of Enrollment	Aid per Pupil effective 07-01-08
Over 2 through 5 Miles	1-15 Days	\$2.00
Over 5 Miles	1-15 Days	\$3.00
Over 2 through 5 Miles	Over 15 Days	\$4.00
Over 5 Miles	Over 15 Days	\$6.00

Membership Compared to Ridership

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2012-2013 Annual	2012-2013	Transportation
Fund 10 Costs for Transportation	Membership	Ridership
\$348,931,107	856,211	520,340*

- * Ridership participation total includes:
- Summer School (4 categories)
 - Vocational School (8 categories)
 - Regular School (10 Categories)

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Specialized Transportation

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- Transportation services to fulfill IEPs
- Need must be documented in IEP
- Can include a variety of services
- Any required transportation— not just to and from school
 - PT and OT appointments, transition activities

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Specialized Transportation Costs

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- Costs eligible for state aid/federal funding
 - Driver salaries
 - Parent contracts
 - Transportation aide salaries
 - Operational costs
 - Equipment purchases
 - Vehicle insurance
 - Vehicle lease
 - Vehicle purchases (prior approval required)

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Aid for Transportation

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Regular Transportation

Specialized Transportation

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To and from school • Specified by distance • Can serve students with IEPs • Aided at statutory per-pupil rate • Did pupil ride the bus? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any service needed • Specified by IEP • Cannot serve students without IEPs • Aided at percentage of eligible costs • Were services provided under the IEP? |
|---|--|

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How is specialized transportation determined?

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- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) still applies
- IEP team decision at an IEP team meeting
- Consider the unique needs of the student NOT administrative convenience, disability category, or financial incentive
- When “...required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education...” 34 CFR 300.34 (a)
- Related service section

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Specialized transportation can take many forms

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- Regular transportation aide
- Ramp added to regular transportation
- Separate vehicle
- Separate vehicle with aide
- Taxis
- Public transportation
- Own vehicles and staff
- Third party contracts
- Parental reimbursement

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Documentation for the IEP

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- Type of vehicle
- Specific equipment needed
- Personnel
- Picking up and dropping off procedures
- Location of pick up and drop off
- Harness or safety equipment
- Goals/objectives for transportation if there is an independent purpose (e.g., life skills, behavior)

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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

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- Per the McKinney-Vento Act, a child is homeless if he or she **lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**
 - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (doubling up)
 - Living in motels, hotels, camping grounds, or the like due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or public or private places not designed for humans to live

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School of Origin

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- Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to remain in their school of origin
- School of origin — school attended when permanently housed or in which last enrolled
- Best interest — keep homeless students in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless this is against the parents' or guardians' wishes

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Transportation

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- Homeless students have a right to transportation to and from the school of origin
- If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same district, that district must arrange transportation
- If the student is living outside the district of origin, the district where the student is living and the district of origin must determine how to divide the responsibility and cost, or they must share the responsibility and cost equally

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USDE Transportation Feasibility Factors

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To be considered

- Age
- Safety
- Length of stay at the shelter
- Need for special instructional programs
- Impact of commute on education

Not to be considered

- Time
- Distance
- Cost

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Transportation Strategies

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- Re-route existing regular school bus routes
- Add to existing bus route (including special education, with incidental benefit limitations, as previously discussed)
- Provide passes for public transportation
- Reimburse parents or unaccompanied youth for gas
- Use approved van services
- Use approved taxi services

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Title I and Homeless Transportation Costs

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- Title I-A funds may be used to transport homeless students to supplementary educational opportunities such as after school tutoring program
- Currently, Title I-A funds may not be used to pay for transporting homeless students to and from the school of origin due to supplanting*

* According to the 2014 Omnibus Spending bill, Title I funds may be used to offset the excess cost of transporting homeless students to/from the school of origin, effective July 1, 2014. DPI will share further information regarding this change upon receipt of USDE guidance.

Specific Issues

Charging fees for pupil transportation

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- Sec. 121.54(8) prohibits a school board from charging pupils or their parents for transportation that the school district is required by law to provide.
- As allowed under WI Stat. 121.545(1) and 121.54(2)(c)
- Thus it is possible for a school district to charge a fee to transport student who live within two miles of school and not in Unusually Hazardous Transportation area.
- Example: In the Mount Horeb, students in grades 6-12 who live within two miles of the Middle School or High School and do not live within designated hazardous areas will only be allowed to ride the school bus to and from school by paying a bus ridership fee of \$200 per family.

504 Plans and Transportation

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If transportation is required through a 504 plan, but not in an IEP, can the cost still qualify for state or federal special education aid?

No

- Only costs tied to an IEP are eligible for state and federal special education aid
- Like all 504 costs where the service is not in an IEP, it belongs in Fund 10

Can a vehicle cross district boundaries to provide transportation described in an IEP or to a homeless student?

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YES!

If the transportation is needed for the student to benefit from, or participate in, special education services it must be provided regardless of district boundaries.

Students who are homeless have a right to transportation to and from the school of origin, districts agree to transportation

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Under strict circumstances, children without disabilities may utilize a special education route.

Non-disabled student must be:

1. At same pick up and drop off and
2. No additional costs to route and
3. No displacement of students with disabilities.

Letter to Bowman
(August 2013)

District must not purchase a vehicle that is too large for the intended purpose.

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Can a child without an IEP ride a specialized transportation route?

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No, unless...

- A rider's IEP specifies they need to be accompanied by another child
- The additional child is picked up and dropped off from the same address, they do not displace a rider with an IEP, and it does not increase the route's cost

In either case, the additional child may neither be charged a fee nor counted for pupil transportation aid

Technical Assistance

Pupil Transportation Aid – Information

http://sfs.dpi.wi.gov/sfs_pupiltran1

School Financial Services Team Contacts

http://sfs.dpi.wi.gov/sfs_staffdir

Special Education Transportation Overview

<http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/files/sped/pdf/spec-ed-transportation-overview.pdf>

Special Education Team Contacts:

http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_hmstaff

Mc-Kinney Vento Transportation:

http://homeless.dpi.wi.gov/hmls_trans_legislative

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Contacts:

http://homeless.dpi.wi.gov/hmls_staff

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