

# Student Transportation Categorical Aid and Special Education Transportation Aid

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**Public Instruction**  
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# Sources of Pupil Transportation Aid

- **Students provided specialized transportation as required by the individual student's IEP (Fund 27).**
  - **Based on the qualifying costs reported. (Slides 16-34)**
- **Students qualifying to receive pupil transportation and actually participating in one of the (Fund 10) programs from three separate calculations.**
  - **Based on distance from pupil's residence to school of attendance, following the shortest commonly traveled route. (Slides 4-15)**

# Fund 10 Pupil Transportation Aid programs

- PI-1547SS – public and private school students transported to attend summer sessions and/or interim sessions.
  - Starts the school year, due by September 30<sup>th</sup> of current year.
  - Summer session that starts after the previous school year ends and the current school year begins.
  - Interim sessions from the previous school year.
  - *Revised – Only based on one category (distance); whether the student is transported either 2 – 5 miles or over 5 miles.*
  - Part of the transportation audit process.

# Fund 10 Pupil Transportation Aid programs

- PI-1547 – public and private school students transported during the regular school year by school districts and charter schools.
  - Report opens in May and is due in late July.
  - Five distances categories.
  - Only district's that have a DPI approved Unusually Hazardous Transportation (UHT) plan can enter riders in the "Less Than 2 Miles (hazardous area) category.
  - Per Board policy a district may transport and include *Open Enrolled In* students from the district border to school of attendance.
  - District can also include students transported based per a contract with a parent or service provider.

# Fund 10 Pupil Transportation Aid programs

- PI-1547 – public and private school students transported during the regular school year by school districts and charter schools.
  - *Districts are responsible to provide reliable documentation and NOT undocumented assumptions or estimates to support the number of pupils reported as actually transported at least once during the school year.*
    - A signed and dated document listing students who rode each bus during the school year by bus driver is great!
    - The qualifying distance the student was transported can come from the transportation director/contactor.
  - \$24,000,000 is distributed based on the PI-1547SS and PI-1547 data from the previous school year in January and June.

# Fund 10 Pupil Transportation Aid programs

- High Cost Pupil Transportation Aid is a separately funded program.
  - Paid in June, for the previous school year, based on audited information. Example FY21 will be paid in June of 2022.
- This aid program provides additional funding to school districts that have higher per pupil transportation costs when compared to the statewide average per pupil transportation cost
  - To qualify the district's Fund 10 cost/student must exceed 140% of state average/student cost and the district has 50 students/square mile or less.
  - Allocation = \$19,856,200.

# Example - 2019-20 Pupil Transportation Fund 10 Aid calendar

	2019 June	2019 July	2019 Aug.	2019 Sept.	2019 Oct.	2019 Nov.	2019 Dec.	2020 Jan.	2020 Feb.	2020 March	2020 April	2020 May	2020 June	2020 July	2020 Aug.	2020 Sept.	2020 Oct.	2020 Nov.	2020 Dec.	2021 Jan.	2021 Feb.	2021 March	2021 April	2021 May	2021 June
Summer P. Trans.				1547SS Due																					
Regular														1547 due											
Audit																				Audit report due					
January P.T Aid. Calc.																									
SFS review Audits																							Audit follow up and edits	Calc. final P. T. Aid Payment	Final P. T. Aid Payment
High Cost Tran. Aid.																								Calc. High C. P. T. Payment	High P. T. Aid Payment

30 months from summer session transportation until final aid payment are made to participating districts and charter schools.

# PI-1547SS summer/interim reporting

Distance in Miles	Summer/Interim (PI-1547SS)
Less Than 2 miles (hazardous area)	NA
Over 2-5 miles	\$10/pupil
Over 5 up to 8 miles	\$20/pupil
Over 8 up to 12 miles	\$20/pupil
Over 12 miles	\$20/pupil

- **Revised- Increased and only one factor to be considered for summer school interim: distance from student's residence to school (attendance).**
- **Districts are not required to transport for summer/interim sessions to the same standard as during the regular school year.**



# PI-1547 regular year reporting

Distance in Miles	Regular Year (PI-1547)
Less Than 2 miles (hazardous area)	\$15/pupil
Over 2-5 miles	\$35/pupil
Over 5 up to 8 miles	\$55/pupil
Over 8 up to 12 miles	\$110/pupil
Over 12 miles	\$375/pupil

- The “0 to 2 Miles (Hazardous Area Transportation)” category requires DPI approval before data can be entered.

# Pupil Transportation Aid Payments

- As was outlined earlier; Pupil Transportation Aid is determined by the number of students, public and private schools, who actually are transported from residence to school of attendance at least once.
- When the district transports fewer students, under current law and related rules, their regular pupil transportation aid will be less in their January payment the following school year. After the January aid payment, the remainder of the funds (minus the transporting on ice aid - Bayfield) is paid out in June based on the District's percentage of state pupil transportation aid in January.
- Any current bill being considered by the legislature has not discussed with us.

# How to report a student...

- **Transported to daycare location?** *If the most direct route to the daycare location is greater than the most direct route to the student's residence, the district must make the mileage category determination based on the student's residence location.*
- **Who moved during the school year?** *A student who is transported at least once will be counted in the mileage category as determined by the LEA on the PI-1547. The determination of the mileage category does not need to be modified for the given school year as long as the student continues residing in the school district.*
- **Being transported by a third party/parent?** *If the district is paying for this service, the student will be counted in mileage category that reflects the most direct route from residency to school of attendance. This payment is calculated from a contract with the provider at a daily rate.*

# Transporting Private School students

- Q/A # 3. Must a public school district provide transportation to private school pupils on days the public school is not in session? *An opinion from the Attorney General, 61 O.A.G. 240, 244 (1972), stated that a public school board is required to provide transportation for private school pupils attending school on days when the public school district is not in session. The Wisconsin Court of Appeals confirmed that position in Hahner v. Board of Education, Wisconsin Rapids, 89 Wis. 2d 180 (1979). It is beneficial to both the public and private school(s) in the same school district to have school calendars which are as consistent as possible. <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/transportation/private-school-questions>*
- Also see “Transportation to Private Schools – General Information” <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-optins/transportation/private-school-information> webpage.

# Observed Patterns of Support

- *Provide training for new employees and develop a District Year-at-a-Glance; Institute a review process.*
- *Meet with your transportation vendor or employees on a regular basis including before student counts.*
- *While one pupil count is required per year, additional counts will provide documentation and probably increased ridership numbers.*
- *Complete counts ahead of time; institute a double-check process; predict what is different this year and plan how to address it.*

# Tips for a Successful Audit

- *Stay current on new laws, especially during the development of the bi-annual state budget.*
- *Pre-audit conversation with auditors about areas of emphasis; model what is expected with employees.*
- *Call us for assistance.*

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

**For those students whose IEPs specify transportation needs, a district may provide specialized transportation and have a portion of those costs included in their overall costs eligible for Special Education and School-Age Parents Aid.**

- **When required by IEP**
- **Eligible route must be 100% IEP-required**

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

## Limited Exceptions:

- **Incidental Benefit Exception: picked up at same location; no additional costs; doesn't displace rider with IEP**
- **Newly Homeless Accommodation or Foster Care: up to 20 days**



# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

- **Additional service on “regular” route (to and from school)**
  - e.g. bus aide for one student per their IEP
  - Only the excess cost of the service is eligible (Fund 27)
  - Regular route transportation (Fund 10)
- **A student maybe be eligible for special education categorical aid for support services while being transported on the regular bus route and be eligible for Pupil Transportation Aid**

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

- **A student who exclusively rides a specialized transportation route may not be counted for Pupil Transportation Aid.**

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

**The following are some transportation examples a district may encounter.**

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

**Example: A district operates a route that transports several students with IEPs that require specialized transportation, as well as a few other students who live along the route. Is this route eligible for state Special Education Aid?**

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

**No: A route that serves students with and without IEPs is not eligible for state Special Education Aid. The district should report the number of students transported on the route on its PI-1547 Pupil Transportation Report, including the students with IEPs. The entire cost of the route is coded to Fund 10.**

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

**Example: A special education student with transportation identified in the student's IEP received specialized transportation at the beginning of the year, but during the year no longer needed that support and is switched to a regular bus route. Is the cost for transporting the student eligible for special education aid for specialized transportation AND eligible for regular pupil transportation aid for the regular bus route even though both took place in the same year?**

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

**Yes: In this example the student is eligible for special education aid for specialized transportation and eligible for regular pupil transportation aid because the student changed from specialized transportation to regular transportation based on IEP changes. However a student exclusively receiving special or additional transportation all year could not also be counted for regular transportation aid.**

# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

- **SPED vehicle/equipment purchases w/ pre-approval**
  - **No approval needed for equipment <\$10,000**
  - **Follow instructions on our website for**  
[Requesting Special Education Aid for Vehicle and Equipment Purchases Over \\$10,000](#)



# State & IDEA Eligible Transportation

- **Additional Resources**

- [Special Education Transportation](#)

- [Specialized Transportation Aid Eligibility and Funding](#)

# COVID-19

## **Are we required to pay our transportation contractor in full?**

- **DPI does not have the authority to order transportation contractors be paid as though school remained in session. School districts should work directly with their transportation contractors and legal counsel through this unprecedented situation. We are reviewing the impact of the federal CARES Act as it pertains to transportation and other contractors.**
- **See guidance [Wisconsin - School Finance Frequently Asked Questions Regarding COVID-19](#)**

# COVID-19

**Example: It has been challenging for students with disabilities to learn virtually & our district now has students that did not previously have transportation in their IEPs but are now being transported to school because they learn better onsite than online; is there any flexibility to the requirement that transportation must be in the student's IEP to be eligible for special education aid?**

# COVID-19

**The requirement that a student must have transportation in their IEP to be eligible for specialized transportation funding is still true; however...**

# COVID-19

**For students with IEPs that did not previously have transportation in their IEP but now receive transportation because the online learning is not working has two funding options:**

# COVID-19

- 1. Special education funding sources, such as: IDEA, special education categorical aid, and high cost special education aid (if applicable) can be used IF the student's IEP is updated to include changes in services, including transportation.**

# COVID-19

**In addition, the IEP could be updated to include a "contingency plan" that would include transportation for when school is virtual (and that counts as specialized transportation) or a "Prior Written Notice" which would be part of the IEP file. It doesn't have to be listed in the same place where specialized transportation is normally included.**

# COVID-19

- 2. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, such as: ESSERF grant or the GEERF grant can be used to cover the cost of specialized transportation needed in response to COVID-19.**



# COVID-19

**These costs would not need to be included in the student's IEP, because they are intended to cover short-term or emergency costs due to requirements for social distancing/additional routes, etc. If it was going to be an ongoing need for the student the expectation is that the IEP is updated.**

# Thank You!

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