



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

UPDATE: School Transportation Efficiency Reviews

2024

Authorizing Legislation: RCW 28A.160.117

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, school districts receive an efficiency rating of their student transportation operations using previous school year data recorded in the transportation funding system, Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS). Regional Transportation Coordinators (RTCs) conduct efficiency reviews for those districts with an efficiency rating below ninety percent. Sixty-nine school districts received an efficiency review in 2024. Efficiency ratings are unpredictable in nature and uncontrollable items can affect the ratings. It is important to note that the efficiency ratings have no direct impact on district allocations calculated by the STARS model. Making operation changes based on efficiency ratings can promote behaviors or decisions that lead to higher efficiency ratings but less state allocation.

INTRODUCTION

The Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS), the current student transportation funding system, was implemented in 2011. At that time, legislature requested an efficiency evaluation system of school district transportation operations. OSPI created an efficiency rating formula to encourage school districts to efficiently run their transportation operations using state resources. Regional Transportation Coordinators (RTCs) are required to conduct efficiency reviews for any districts whose efficiency rating is less than ninety percent.

Review Process

The RTCs complete the efficiency evaluation through two different review processes. The first process is for districts who receive a rating below 90 percent and the prior year rating was above 90 percent. The second review process is for districts whose prior year and current year efficiency ratings are below 90 percent.

2023–24 School Year Results

The review process for the 2023-24 school year resulted in sixty-nine reviews out of 279 districts receiving efficiency ratings. Sixteen districts received reviews due to efficiency ratings below 90 percent the current year and above 90 percent the prior year. The RTCs completed fifty-three reviews for districts with a current and prior year rating below 90 percent.

Table 1: 2024 District Efficiency Ratings Distribution

Efficiency Rating	Number of Districts 2024	Number of Districts 2023
100%	181	183
90-99.9%	29	18
80-89.9%	34	35
70-79.9%	15	24
60-69.9%	9	11
Less than 60%	11	8

Source: STARS, June 2024

Factors Impacting Efficiency

The efficiency rating formula creates cohort groups and compares districts' data to generate an efficiency rating. District data changes from year to year which can change cohort groups and affect efficiency ratings. Geographic location, district reporting errors, one-time purchases, and district determined levels of school bus service can affect a district's efficiency rating.

CONCLUSION

The efficiency ratings are determined using prior school year data. Districts receiving a rating below 90 percent receive an efficiency review. Reasons vary for a rating below 90 and can range from one-time purchases, reporting errors, geographic constraints, and a district's level of service. The RTC and the district will discuss any concerns found during the review. Efficiency ratings do not give a true sense of efficiency since the district cohorts can change from year to year but can be a starting point for reviewing potential concerns and expose how districts best utilize resources.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Efficiency reviews by review type

Table 1: Current and Prior Year Rating Below 90%

District	Efficiency Rating 2023–24	Efficiency Rating 2022–23
Anacortes	71.6%	66.5%
Bainbridge Island	87.2%	72.1%
Battle Ground	79.8%	77.3%
Blaine	73.1%	67.9%
Brinnon	58.1%	84.1%
Centerville	78.2%	56.2%
Central Kitsap	80.8%	87.0%
Centralia	89.4%	85.6%
Chewelah	63.7%	57.0%
Colton	61.6%	82.7%
Curlew	55.1%	86.0%
Deer Park	85.8%	75.1%
Easton	57.3%	63.5%
Eatonville	63.7%	85.8%
Great Northern	50.6%	68.4%
Green Mountain	59.8%	48.7%
Griffin	61.2%	73.1%
Hood Canal	74.2%	70.8%
Index	82.7%	85.3%
McCleary	86.6%	79.4%
Mead	83.1%	83.6%
Medical Lake	87.1%	76.3%
Methow Valley	76.0%	88.4%
Monroe	74.0%	75.2%
Napavine	84.4%	76.5%
Nine Mile Falls	87.0%	83.1%
North Beach	86.0%	84.0%
North Kitsap	80.1%	76.6%
North Thurston	81.1%	88.0%
Northport	68.0%	59.9%
Oak Harbor	83.0%	78.6%
Oakesdale	46.4%	39.3%
Ocosta	89.9%	86.0%
Olympia	83.9%	70.0%

District	Efficiency Rating 2023–24	Efficiency Rating 2022–23
Orient	40.5%	64.2%
Pateros	71.3%	75.3%
Port Angeles	84.2%	76.6%
Port Townsend	78.2%	62.4%
Pullman	84.9%	83.4%
Raymond	67.7%	68.8%
Renton	79.6%	80.0%
Rosalia	67.5%	61.5%
Sequim	75.2%	72.1%
Skamania	58.7%	73.2%
South Bend	80.2%	89.0%
South Kitsap	78.7%	68.7%
South Whidbey	84.8%	79.9%
Star	66.5%	72.2%
Steptoe	52.1%	54.7%
Sultan	82.8%	78.8%
Tekoa	55.9%	59.7%
Vashon Island	85.7%	79.4%
Washtucna	77.3%	75.3%

Source: STARS, June 2024

Table 2: Current Below 90%, Prior Above 90%

District	Efficiency Rating 2023-24	Efficiency Rating 2022-23
Colville	75.3%	100.0%
Conway	86.0%	96.4%
Crescent	87.5%	100.0%
Mukilteo	89.6%	100.0%
North River	82.4%	91.1%
Ocean Beach	87.3%	100.0%
Onalaska	73.7%	100.0%
Pasco	88.0%	100.0%
Quilcene	34.0%	100.0%
Rochester	66.9%	100.0%
Soap Lake	81.5%	100.0%
Toledo	86.0%	100.0%
Tumwater	85.2%	90.4%
West Valley (Spokane)	85.9%	100.0%
Willapa Valley	89.5%	92.8%
Yakima	89.5%	100.0%

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