



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

UPDATE: Student Transportation Allocation Determination

2025

Authorizing Legislation: RCW 28A.160.180(4)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) annually submits a report outlining the method used in determining the coefficients for each site characteristic used to establish the transportation allocation for the following year. The 2025–26 regression analysis for coefficients will use data elements from the previous school year. The coefficients are then used in the Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS) formula which will determine the 2025–26 school year allocation.

INTRODUCTION

STARS uses a regression analysis to determine each school district's student transportation operations allocation. The regression analysis process determines coefficients by comparing certain characteristics to statewide reported transportation expenditures. The allocation for each school district is then calculated using the statewide coefficients and the reported data from individual school districts.

2025–26 STARS Formula Coefficients

For the 2025–26 school year student transportation allocation, OSPI will use 2024–25 school year student transportation reports and expenditure data, as well as certain district data elements to determine the formula coefficients. The 2024–25 expenditure data will be available December 2025. At that time, OSPI will determine the coefficients used to calculate the student transportation allocations for the 2025–26 school year.

The data elements reported by school districts are:

- Basic program student counts: total students riding basic program school buses, students riding school buses from stops within the designated walk area and students riding public transit.
- Special program student counts by category: students with disabilities with transportation listed as a related service in their Individual Education Programs (IEPs), gifted, bilingual, early education (district operated Head Start, district operated Early Childhood Education Assistance Program and other district operation early education program), and students experiencing homelessness and foster care students.
- The average distance from each school bus stop to the corresponding destination.
- The number of destinations (schools or learning centers) served.
- For non-high school districts, if the districts provide transportation service for resident high school students.
- The total land area of the district (OSPI provides the district land area and excludes categories such as national parks and forest areas not provided with transportation services).

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

The September through January 2025–26 school year apportionment payments will be based on the 2024–25 school year Student Transportation allocation amounts. Once the 2025–26 allocation amounts are determined in February, the apportionment payments will be adjusted, taking in consideration September through January payments, based on the prior school year, and the current year allocation amounts. The 2025–26 school year allocation will use the coefficients based on prior year data and the district reporting elements from 2024–25 spring and 2025–26 fall and winter report periods. The individual district allocations are available on OSPI's website under [Student Transportation's STARS Operations Allocation Detail Reports](#).

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