



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

# UPDATE: Student Transportation Allocation Determination

*2023*

Authorizing Legislation: [RCW 28A.160.180](#)

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State law (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 28A.160.180 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to annually submit a report to the Legislature outlining the method used for determining student transportation funding allocations for school districts. The 2023–24 school year allocation will be determined by the Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS). The 2023–24 regression analysis will use data elements from spring 2023, fall 2023, and winter 2024.

# INTRODUCTION

The Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (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.

## 2023–24 STARS FORMULA COEFFICIENTS

For the student transportation allocation for the 2023–24 school year, OSPI will use student transportation reports, expenditure data from the 2022–23 school year, and certain district data elements to determine the formula coefficients. The 2022–23 expenditure data will be available in December 2023. At that time, OSPI will perform the regression analysis to determine the coefficients used to calculate the student transportation allocations for 2023–24.

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: special education; gifted or highly capable; bilingual or multilingual; early education, including district operated Head Start, district operated Early Childhood Education Assistance Program, and other district operation early education programs; and McKinney-Vento 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 that are not provided with transportation services).

## CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

School districts' apportionment payments for September through January will be based on the 2022–23 school year amounts, with an adjustment in February to reflect current year data. The February apportionment payment will adjust the prior year amounts to actual calculated apportionments based on the data collected in the 2022–23 spring report and the 2023–24 fall and winter reports. The individual district allocations are available on OSPI's website under [Student Transportation's STARS Operations Allocation Detail Reports](#).

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