

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION AMENDMENTS

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to student eligibility for state-supported school transportation.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends provisions related to student eligibility for state-supported school transportation; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53F-2-403, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 2

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53F-2-403** is amended to read:

53F-2-403. Eligibility for state-supported transportation -- Approved bus routes.

(1) A student eligible for state-supported transportation means:



28 (a) a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade [~~six~~] 6 who lives at least 1-1/2
29 miles from the main entrance of the student's school;

30 (b) a student enrolled in grades [~~seven~~] 7 through 12 who lives at least two miles from
31 the main entrance of the student's school; and

32 (c) a student enrolled in a special program offered by a school district and approved by
33 the State Board of Education for trainable, motor, multiple-disability, or other students with
34 severe disabilities who are incapable of walking to school or where it is unsafe for students to
35 walk because of their disabling condition, without reference to distance from school.

36 (2) If a school district implements double sessions as an alternative to new building
37 construction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, [~~those~~] an affected elementary
38 school [~~students~~] student residing less than 1-1/2 miles from the main entrance of the student's
39 school may be transported one way to or from school because of safety factors relating to
40 darkness or other hazardous conditions as determined by the local school board.

41 (3) (a) The State Board of Education shall distribute transportation money to school
42 districts based on:

- 43 (i) an allowance per mile for approved bus routes;
- 44 (ii) an allowance per hour for approved bus routes; and
- 45 (iii) a minimum allocation for each school district eligible for transportation funding.

46 (b) The State Board of Education shall distribute appropriated transportation funds
47 based on the prior year's eligible transportation costs as legally reported under Subsection
48 [53F-2-402\(3\)](#).

49 (c) The State Board of Education shall annually review the allowance per mile and the
50 allowance per hour and adjust the allowances to reflect current economic conditions.

51 (4) (a) Approved bus routes for funding purposes shall be determined on fall data
52 collected by October 1.

53 (b) Approved route funding shall be determined on the basis of the most efficient and
54 economic routes.

55 (5) A Transportation Advisory Committee with representation from school district
56 superintendents, business officials, school district transportation supervisors, and State Board
57 of Education employees shall serve as a review committee for addressing school transportation
58 needs, including recommended approved bus routes.

59 (6) A local school board may provide for the transportation of students regardless of the
60 distance from school, from general funds of the school district.

61 (7) (a) (i) If a local school board expends an amount of revenue equal to at least .0002
62 per dollar of taxable value of the school district's board local levy imposed under Section
63 [53F-8-302](#) to pay for transporting students and for the replacement of school buses, the state
64 may contribute an amount not to exceed 85% of the state average cost per mile, contingent
65 upon the Legislature appropriating funds for a state contribution.

66 (ii) The State Board of Education's employees shall distribute the state contribution
67 according to rules enacted by the State Board of Education.

68 (b) (i) The amount of state guarantee money that a school district would otherwise be
69 entitled to receive under Subsection (7)(a) may not be reduced for the sole reason that the
70 school district's levy is reduced as a consequence of changes in the certified tax rate under
71 Section [59-2-924](#) due to changes in property valuation.

72 (ii) Subsection (7)(b)(i) applies for a period of two years following the change in the
73 certified tax rate.