
SENATE BILL 6031

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senator Braun

Prefiled 01/05/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the student transportation
2 allocation to accommodate multiple vehicle types for transporting
3 students; and amending RCW 28A.160.150, 28A.160.170, and 28A.160.180.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.160.150 and 2009 c 548 s 304 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Funds allocated for transportation costs, except for funds
8 provided for transportation and transportation services to and from
9 school shall be in addition to the basic education allocation. The
10 distribution formula developed in RCW 28A.160.150 through 28A.160.180
11 shall be for allocation purposes only and shall not be construed as
12 mandating specific levels of pupil transportation services by local
13 districts nor the type of vehicle to be used for pupil
14 transportation. School districts are encouraged to use the vehicle
15 type deemed by a district to be the safest and most cost-effective
16 manner of transporting its students, including using school buses and
17 vans, and may use the student transportation allocation accordingly.
18 Operating costs as determined under RCW 28A.160.150 through
19 28A.160.180 shall be funded at (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent or as
20 close thereto as reasonably possible for transportation of an
21 eligible student to and from school as defined in RCW 28A.160.160(3).

1 In addition, funding shall be provided for transportation services
2 for students living within the walk area as determined under RCW
3 28A.160.160(5).

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.160.170 and 2021 c 234 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Each district shall submit three times each year to the
7 superintendent of public instruction during October, February, and
8 May of each year a report containing the following:

9 (1)(a) The number of eligible students transported to and from
10 school as provided for in RCW 28A.160.150, along with identification
11 of stop locations and school locations, and (b) the number of miles
12 driven per vehicle type for pupil transportation services as
13 authorized in RCW 28A.160.150 the previous school year; and

14 (2) Other operational data and descriptions as required by the
15 superintendent to determine allocation requirements for each
16 district. The superintendent shall require that districts separate
17 the costs of operating the program for the transportation of eligible
18 students to and from school as defined by RCW 28A.160.160(3), non-to-
19 and-from-school pupil transportation costs, and costs to provide
20 expanded services under RCW 28A.160.185(1) in the annual financial
21 statement. The cost, quantity, and type of all fuel purchased by
22 school districts for use in to-and-from-school transportation shall
23 be included in the annual financial statement.

24 Each district shall submit the information required in this
25 section on a timely basis as a condition of the continuing receipt of
26 school transportation moneys.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.160.180 and 2009 c 548 s 307 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 Each district's annual student transportation allocation shall be
30 determined by the superintendent of public instruction in the
31 following manner:

32 (1) The superintendent shall annually calculate the
33 transportation allocation for those services provided for in RCW
34 28A.160.150, inclusive of all vehicle types used. The allocation
35 formula may be adjusted to include such additional differential
36 factors as basic and special passenger counts as defined by the
37 superintendent of public instruction, average distance to school, and
38 number of locations served.

1 (2) The allocation shall be based on a regression analysis of the
2 number of basic and special students transported and as many other
3 site characteristics that are identified as being statistically
4 significant.

5 (3) The transportation allocation for transporting students in
6 district-owned passenger cars, as defined in RCW 46.04.382, pursuant
7 to RCW 28A.160.010 for services provided for in RCW 28A.160.150 if a
8 school district deems it advisable to use such vehicles after the
9 school district board of directors has considered the safety of the
10 students being transported as well as the economy of utilizing a
11 district-owned passenger car in lieu of a school bus (~~is the private~~
12 ~~vehicle reimbursement rate in effect on September 1st of each school~~
13 ~~year~~) must be included in the overall determination of the
14 district's annual student transportation allocation. Students
15 transported in district-owned passenger cars must be included in the
16 corresponding basic or special passenger counts, average distance to
17 school, and number of locations served.

18 (4) Prior to June 1st of each year the superintendent shall
19 submit to the office of financial management, and the education and
20 fiscal committees of the legislature, a report outlining the
21 methodology and rationale used in determining the statistical
22 coefficients for each site characteristic used to determine the
23 allocation for the following year.

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