

ORIGINAL SENATE  
FILE NO. SF0072

ENROLLED ACT NO. 55, SENATE

SIXTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING  
2018 BUDGET SESSION

AN ACT relating to school finance; requiring the department of education to evaluate and provide recommendations on fiscal efficiencies in transportation funding; requiring reports; and providing for an effective date.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

**Section 1.**

(a) The legislature recognizes the importance effective transportation plays in ensuring all students in the state have an equal opportunity to receive a quality education. The legislature also recognizes the state has an interest in ensuring public school transportation is funded in a cost effective manner. The department of education shall evaluate the transportation funding system in place prior to the enactment of 2017 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 205, identify fiscal efficiencies within the system and provide recommendations for how to implement those efficiencies through statute or rule. In this study, the department shall evaluate and provide recommendations on:

(i) Existing department rules on minimum student walking distances;

(ii) Existing department rules relating to physical barriers and safety hazards within walking zones. The department shall evaluate school districts' methods of evaluating physical barriers and safety hazards and school districts' methods for confirming those designations;

(iii) The sharing of transportation personnel and services among school districts, including department rules on sharing transportation services;

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(iv) The use of contracts with parents and guardians to provide compensation for transportation of students;

(v) Existing department rules on what a school district must demonstrate to the department in order to increase the size of its bus fleet. The department shall consider:

(A) How the rules could be developed to enhance school bus routing efficiency; and

(B) How the rules could be developed to enhance transportation efficiencies by using buses with greater seating capacity.

(vi) Existing department rules on school bus life cycles;

(vii) Existing department rules on the review of a school district's fleet when a district's average daily membership decreases by fifteen percent (15%) or more in a three (3) year period;

(viii) Existing department rules on allowable and nonallowable costs;

(ix) Opportunities to reduce the number of school district buses. The department shall identify circumstances where school districts may adopt multiple routing, including circumstances where adjustment of school schedules would allow use of multiple routing;

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(x) Incentives for school districts to adopt and use modern school transportation routing software, navigation systems and related programs and training;

(xi) Any other mechanism in the state's transportation funding system that would increase efficiencies;

(xii) Possible use of regional transportation service districts to provide cost savings and improve efficiency for school district transportation operations;

(xiii) Opportunities to phase in school buses equipped with seat belts.

(b) To the extent the department determines regional meetings of school districts around the state are necessary to complete the requirements of this section, the department is authorized to conduct the meetings. Appropriate school district personnel shall attend regional meetings at the request of the department.

(c) The department of education may request any executive branch agency or any school district of the state to provide information necessary to the department in its studies. Agencies and school districts shall comply promptly with any request.

**Section 2.** Not later than June 1, 2018, the department of education shall report to the joint education interim committee its preliminary evaluation and recommendations on the studies conducted pursuant to section 1 of this act. Not later than September 1, 2018, the department shall report its final evaluation and recommendations to the joint education interim committee.

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**Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

TIME APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk