
HOUSE BILL 1689

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Santos, Harris, Muri, Pollet, and Hudgins; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Read first time 01/26/17. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to adjustments to the student transportation
2 allocation system; and amending RCW 28A.160.150, 28A.160.191, and
3 28A.160.192.

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
11 (~~28A.160.180~~) 28A.160.192 shall be for allocation purposes only and
12 shall not be construed as mandating specific levels of pupil
13 transportation services by local districts. Operating costs as
14 determined under RCW 28A.160.150 through 28A.160.180 shall be funded
15 at one hundred percent or as close thereto as reasonably possible for
16 transportation of an eligible student to and from school as defined
17 in RCW 28A.160.160(3). In addition, funding shall be provided for
18 transportation services for students living within the walk area as
19 determined under RCW 28A.160.160(5).

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.160.191 and 2009 c 548 s 309 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that
4 the allocation formula results in an adequate ((appropriation))
5 allocation for low enrollment districts, nonhigh districts, districts
6 involved in cooperative transportation agreements, and cooperative
7 special transportation services operated by educational service
8 districts. If necessary, the superintendent shall develop a separate
9 process to adjust the allocation of the districts.

10 (2) The superintendent shall evaluate districts whose allocation
11 is less than the districts' prior year transportation expenditures
12 and shall determine which districts qualify for inclusion in the
13 alternate funding process provided in subsection (1) of this section.
14 The evaluation process must include a review of the district
15 efficiency rating as determined in RCW 28A.160.117, key performance
16 indicators, and local characteristics.

17 (3) The superintendent shall establish a transportation
18 allocation adjustment process to address districts with unique
19 geographic or other constraints that result in inadequate funding and
20 to cover initial year costs for new district programs, including new
21 transportation to skill centers and early education programs.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.160.192 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 27 s 3 are each
23 amended to read as follows:

24 ~~(1) The superintendent of public instruction shall ((phase in the~~
25 ~~implementation of the distribution formula under this chapter for~~
26 ~~allocating)) allocate state funds to school districts for the~~
27 ~~transportation of students to and from school((. The phase in shall~~
28 ~~begin no later than the 2011-2013 biennium and be fully implemented~~
29 ~~by the 2013-2015 biennium)) as provided in this subsection.~~

30 (a) The formula must be ~~((developed and))~~ revised on an ongoing
31 basis using the major cost factors in student transportation,
32 including basic and special student loads, school district land area,
33 average distance to school, roadway miles, and number of locations
34 served. Factors must include all those site characteristics that are
35 statistically significant after analysis of the data required by the
36 revised reporting process.

37 (b) The formula must allocate funds to school districts based on
38 the average predicted costs of transporting students to and from
39 school, using a regression analysis. Only factors that are

1 statistically significant shall be used in the regression analysis.
2 Employee compensation costs included in the allowable transportation
3 expenditures used for the purpose of establishing (~~each school~~
4 ~~district's~~) the statewide independent variable in the regression
5 analysis shall be limited to the (~~base salary or hourly wage rates,~~
6 ~~fringe benefit rates, and applicable health care rates provided in~~
7 ~~the omnibus appropriations act~~) costs of providing to and from
8 school transportation. The result of the regression analysis must be
9 offset by one year and adjusted for inflation.

10 (2) (~~During the phase-in period,~~) Funding provided to school
11 districts for student transportation operations shall be distributed
12 on the following basis:

13 (a) Annually, each school district shall receive the lesser of
14 the (~~previous school year's pupil transportation operations~~)
15 allocation determined by the regression analysis, or the total of
16 allowable pupil transportation expenditures identified on the
17 previous school year's final expenditure report to the state; plus
18 district indirect expenses using the federal restricted indirect rate
19 as calculated in the district annual financial report;

20 (b) Annually, the amount identified in (a) of this subsection
21 shall be adjusted for any budgeted increases provided in the omnibus
22 appropriations act for salaries or fringe benefits;

23 (~~(c) (Annually, any funds appropriated by the legislature in~~
24 ~~excess of the maintenance level funding amount for student~~
25 ~~transportation shall be distributed among school districts on a~~
26 ~~prorated basis using the difference between the amount identified in~~
27 ~~(a) adjusted by (b) of this subsection and the amount determined~~
28 ~~under the formula in RCW 28A.160.180; and~~

29 ~~(d))~~ Allocations provided to recognize the cost of depreciation
30 to districts contracting with private carriers for student
31 transportation shall be deducted from the allowable transportation
32 expenditures in (a) of this subsection.

--- END ---