Transportation Funding and Reporting

Texas Education Code (TEC) and Statutory References

TEC §34.002 states that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will establish safety standards for school buses; §34.003 establishes the type of vehicles that may be used to transport students; §34.007 provides that school boards may establish economical public school transportation systems and states that school bus drivers must meet the standards and qualifications adopted by the DPS; §42.155 defines the type of student transportation that is eligible for funding.

The General Appropriations Act: Article III establishes the funding rates for eligible transportation, which were established in 1984.

History/Relevant Background Information

The legislature has historically provided funding assistance to school districts that provide student transportation. Basic funding is for home-to-school or school-to-home transportation provided to regular eligible students who live more than two miles from their campus of regular attendance and for special needs students who require special transportation to attend school. There is also a provision for limited funding of transportation provided to regular eligible students who live fewer than two miles from their campus if they live in an area designated as a hazardous traffic area by the school board. Additionally, if a district establishes that an extreme hardship case exists and a student needs to be transported to or from school by a parent or parent's designated agent, the district is eligible for funding of mileage if it reimburses the parent for providing the transportation.

Statute provides for funding of transportation of students between campuses or between a campus and another location to attend career and technology instruction. According to agency policy, as of the 2010-2011 school year, all intra-district home-to school or school-to-home transportation becomes eligible if students meet the requirements. Thus home-to-school or school-to-home transportation of students to magnet schools/campuses and transportation home to students that stay after school for tutorials or other after school programs, will be eligible.

See the table below for transportation allotment totals for the past several years.

Year	Allotment
2006-2007	$304,276,595
2007-2008	$308,492,427
2008-2009	$308,798,509
2009-2010	$311,328,048
2010-2011*	$311,905,858

*Legislative Planning Estimate

(continued)

After the completion of each school year, each district must file the Transportation Route Services Report and the Student Transportation Operations Report. The Route Services Report communicates the eligible service (mileage and ridership) that the district provided during the school year. It is the primary source of information for determining the district's transportation allotment. The Operations Report details all costs and all mileage the district incurred for student transportation. This report includes ineligible service, such as transportation to and from field trips or sports activities.

Description of Program/Funding Element

The transportation allotment is part of Foundation School Program (FSP) funding and is included as a separate line item on the *Summary of Finances*. Districts file their transportation reports through the web-based FSP Payment System.

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