



State School Fund Transportation Grant

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SSF Transportation Grant

Mandates for pupil transportation were established in the early 1990s

- **327.043 When district required to provide transportation; waiver.** (1) A school district is required to provide transportation for elementary students who reside more than one mile from school and for secondary school students who reside more than 1.5 miles from school. A district is also required to provide transportation for any student identified in a supplemental plan approved by the State Board of Education.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Education may waive the requirement to provide transportation for secondary school students who reside more than 1.5 miles from school. A district must present to the board a plan providing or identifying suitable and sufficient alternate modes of transporting secondary school students. [[1991 c.780 §7](#)]

SSF Transportation Grant – rules and statutes

Authority and administration of the Transportation Grant

- ORS 327.006 provides authority in State School Fund
- ORS 327.013(3)(a) identifies rates/process of reimbursement
- OAR 581-023-0040 defines administration

Pupil Transportation standards

- OAR 581-053 school bus driver training, licensing, and school bus standards

SSF Transportation Grant – reimbursements

ORS 327.013 (3)(a) Transportation grant equals:

(A) 70 percent of approved transportation costs for those school districts ranked below the 80th percentile under paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(B) 80 percent of approved transportation costs for those school districts ranked in or above the 80th percentile but below the 90th percentile under paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(C) 90 percent of approved transportation costs for those school districts ranked in or above the 90th percentile under paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(b) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall rank school districts based on the approved transportation costs per ADM of each school district, ranking the school district with the highest approved transportation costs per ADM at the top of the order.

SSF Transportation Grant – reimbursements

- The **transportation grant uses actual costs** as the factor to adjust for different transportation costs per student.
- The **transportation grant is 70% to 90% of approved transportation costs**. Approved costs are those attributable to transporting students from home to school (if over 1 mile from elementary school or 1.5 miles from high school), between schools, on field trips and for other reasons in special cases. This is a categorical grant only available for actual transportation costs. **This grant is similar to the 60% transportation reimbursement provided in the pre-Measure 5 formula (1990).**
- **To determine which districts receive a higher percentage the average transportation cost per student is calculated for each district.** Districts are then ranked from the highest to the lowest cost per student. **The top 10% of highest cost districts qualify for 90% grants and the next 10% qualify for 80%. The remaining districts receive 70% grants.**

SSF Transportation Grant – reimbursements

- The other 10-30% of approved transportation costs is not directly funded. Districts likely fund it from their general purpose grant. **Each dollar of increased transportation costs means 10-30 cents for transportation from other funds. This was likely adopted to encourage efficiency.**
- Before the change in 2003, the transportation grant was 70% of approved transportation costs.
- The highest cost districts tend to be rural districts with a low density of students where most of the students ride a bus over considerable distances. The higher transportation grants reduce funds available for general purpose grants so that districts with 70% transportation grants receive a little less state funding.
- This adjustment accounts for approximately 1% of funding statewide

SSF Transportation Grant - recent data

Year ending	Passengers	Buses		Mileage			Transportation Grant
		District	Contractor	Route	Activity	Total	
2019	297,621	2,572	2,283	55,119,782	9,520,285	64,640,067	\$ 236,064,322
2021	233,977	2,762	2,149	25,248,473	2,625,645	27,874,118	\$ 209,854,297
2022	214,258	2,499	1,939	45,235,546	6,334,825	51,570,371	\$ 245,224,301

- The Transportation Grant is currently estimated to pay reimbursements of \$270 million and \$290 million for school years 22-23 and 23-24 respectively.
- This means the **actual cost of transportation is estimated to be \$394 million and \$408 million** for school years 22-23 and 23-24 respectively.

SSF Transportation Grant – take away

- Oregon has been fortunate to have a long-standing, stellar safety record, which the Transportation Grant plays a role in that success
- For the most part, the grant has not had significant changes in practice or philosophy in the way it is structured since the early 1990s.
- There have been recent legislative attempts to change what is eligible to be included in the Transportation Grant, but those were not successful due in part to concerns with risk management, legislative intent and oversight
- The Transportation Grant does not prevent school districts from pursuing alternative solutions for local challenges outside the parameters of the grant
- Inside the 1 mile and 1.5 mile boundary is left to local control and other funding, unless there is an approved supplemental plan

Thank you

Are there any questions?

