



Implementation of the New Student Transportation Funding System

Summary

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is required to provide the Washington State Legislature with quarterly updates on the progress of the implementation of the new student transportation funding system referred to as STARS (Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System). Prior status reports are available on OSPI's website at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/LegisGov/Reports.aspx>.

Enabling legislation

[RCW 28A.160.1921 \(2\)](#)

Background

The 2010 Washington State Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 2776, which set the implementation date for STARS as September 1, 2011. The *General Instructions for Data Collection* and the *Detailed Guidance for Data Collection* are available on the OSPI website, under "STARS Reference Material" at:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/transportation/STARS/default.aspx>. The STARS system requires school districts to submit three reports per school year with the first due at the end of October, the second due February 1 and the third due May 1. The results of the reports are available on OSPI's website on the STARS page referenced above, under "Quarterly Reports."

Status Update

The additional distribution of funding at the end of June 2012 provided another \$2,018,309 for student transportation operations to school districts with identified underfunding. This funding was in addition to the \$2,200,000 distributed at the end of February 2012.

During September 2012, the regional transportation coordinators are providing multiple regional training sessions on the reporting requirements. Several minor changes to the instructions and detailed guidance were made to provide clarification to those areas that had generated the highest number of questions in the 2011-12 reporting cycle.

For more information about the new funding system for student transportation, please contact Allan J. Jones, Director, Student Transportation at 360-725-6120, or at allan.jones@k12.wa.us.

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