

# Student Transportation: Funding and Reporting

Presented By:

**James Andrews** 

Office of Funding and Financial Reporting

Division of Finance and Operations

**FAMIS Summer Conference** 

June 14, 2023



# Florida's Public School Transportation Numbers (2021-2022):

- 827,919 total students transported (29% of total enrollment in public schools).
- 76,386 ineligible students transported.
- 37,495 students with disabilities (Exceptional Student Education ESE) transported.
- 16,509 hazardous walking students transported.
- 15,450 school buses in daily service.
- 17,814 total public school buses statewide.



## Florida's Public School Transportation Numbers (2021-2022):

- \$1,088,370,455 total expenditures for student transportation.
- \$485 in Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding per student.
- \$1,476 ESE supplement (weighted).
- 203,911,523 total route miles (daily routes).
- 8,942,685 total field trip/activity miles.
- 212,854,208 total miles driven.



#### **Transportation Profiles**

- The 2021-2022 Florida School District Transportation
   Profiles publication has been posted to the department's transportation web page at:
   http://www.fldoe.org/schools/healthy
  - http://www.fldoe.org/schools/healthyschools/transportation/.
- For more information about the Florida School District Profiles, please contact Ray Gray at <a href="Ray.Gray@fldoe.org">Ray.Gray@fldoe.org</a>.



Florida School District 2021-22 Transportation Profiles

Volume 31, March 2023





Florida Department of Education Bureau of PK-12 Education Information Services and Office of Funding and Financial Reporting

### Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) General Instructions 2022-2023





Included with the Transportation General Instructions each year.



#### APPENDIX A

#### Schedule of State Processing Dates

2022-23 through 2025-26

Survey 1 Survey 1 Survey Week: July 11 – 15, 2022 Survey Week: July 10 - 14, 2023 Due Date: July 29, 2022 Due Date: July 28, 2023 State Processing: July 25 - September 9, 2022 State Processing: July 24 – September 8, 2023 Final Update/Amendment Date: September 30, 2022 Final Update/Amendment Date: September 30, 2023 Survey Week: October 10 – 14, 2022 Survey Week: October 9 – 13, 2023 Due Date: October 21, 2022 Due Date: October 20, 2023 State Processing: October 17 - November 4, 2022 State Processing: October 16 - November 3, 2023 Final Update/Amendment Date: December 15, 2022 Final Update/Amendment Date: December 15, 2023

Survey Week: February 5 - 9, 2024 Survey Week: February 6 - 10, 2023 Due Date: February 17, 2023 Due Date: February 16, 2024 State Processing: February 13 - March 3, 2023 State Processing: February 12 - March 1, 2024 Final Update/Amendment Date: April 15, 2023 Final Update/Amendment Date: April 15, 2024 Survey 4 Survey 4

Survey Week: June 12 – 16, 2023 Survey Week: June 10 - 14, 2024 Due Date: June 30, 2023 Due Date: June 28, 2024 State Processing: June 17 - July 5, 2024 State Processing: June 19 - July 7, 2023 Final Update/Amendment Date: August 15, 2023 Final Update/Amendment Date: August 15, 2024 2024-25 2025-26

Survey 1

Due Date: July 26, 2024

Survey 1 Survey Week: July 8 - 12, 2024 Survey Week: July 14 - 18, 2025 Due Date: August 1, 2025 State Processing: July 22 – September 6, 2024 Final Update/Amendment Date: September 30, 2024 State Processing: July 28 – September 12, 2025 Final Update/Amendment Date: September 30, 2025

Survey 2 Survey Week: October 7 – 11, 2024 Survey Week: October 6 – 10, 2025 Due Date: October 18, 2024 Due Date: October 17, 2025 State Processing: October 14 - November 1, 2024 State Processing: October 13 - 31, 2025 Final Update/Amendment Date: December 15, 2024 Final Update/Amendment Date: December 15, 2025

Survey Week: February 3 - 7, 2025 Survey Week: February 2 - 6, 2026 Due Date: February 14, 2025 Due Date: February 13, 2026 State Processing: February 10 - 28, 2025 State Processing: February 9 – 27, 2026 Final Update/Amendment Date: April 15, 2025 Final Update/Amendment Date: April 15, 2026

Survey 4 Survey Week: June 15 – 19, 2026 Survey Week: June 16 – 20, 2025 Due Date: July 3, 2025 Due Date: July 3, 2026 State Processing: June 23 – July 11, 2025 Final Update/Amendment Date: August 15, 2025 State Processing: June 22 – July 10, 2026 Final Update/Amendment Date: August 15, 2026



#### Legislative Appropriations for Student Transportation





# Student Transportation Section 1011.68, Florida Statutes (F.S.)

- The Student Transportation funding formula allocates funds for school district transportation based on each district's pro rata share of state transported students.
  - Additional funding is provided for the transportation of certain disabled students.
  - Adjustments are made for cost of living differences, percent of population outside of urban centers and an efficiency factor that is based upon the average number of eligible students transported per bus in daily service to encourage greater bus utilization.



#### Florida Student Transportation Funding

- FEFP funds for student transportation are appropriated and distributed as authorized by Sections 1006.21, 1006.22, 1006.23, 1006.25 and 1011.68, F.S. Locally maintained records must document the following three basic areas:
  - Student eligibility to receive state FEFP regular or weighted transportation funds (based on criteria such as distance from school, programs attended, and disability status and services, if applicable).
  - Student ridership <u>and</u> school attendance during approved transportation survey periods (to verify that transportation service was actually received).
  - Transportation in approved conveyance (i.e., in an approved mode of transportation or vehicle type).



#### **Funding Formula**

- Three components:
  - Base transportation allocation:
    - Provides funding for all fundable transported students, including certain disabled students.
  - ESE transportation allocation:
    - Fully funded prior to the base allocation component being allocated.
  - Family Empowerment Transportation Scholarship
    - Fully funded prior to the base allocation component being allocated.



#### Florida Price Level Index (FPLI)

- Adjustments are made for cost of living differences.
  - The purpose of the FPLI is to measure the differences in the cost of labor from county to county.







#### **Rurality Index**



- Adjustments are made for the percent of the population outside of urban centers (Rurality Index).
  - Number of urban and rural inhabitants for each Florida county is based on U.S. census data.



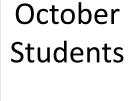


#### **Average Bus Occupancy (ABO) Index**

- Adjustments are made based upon the average number of eligible students transported per bus (category B) in daily service.
- In 2023-2024, ABO ranges from high of 124 (ABO = 1.10) to low of 38 (ABO = .90).
- Uses a formula which rewards efficiency.
- Efficiency factor is based upon the average number of eligible students transported per bus in daily service.
- Encourages greater bus utilization.



### Average Bus Occupancy Index (example)



11,920

+

十

February Students

11,934

Average Students

11,927



October Buses

138

February Buses

140

Average Buses

139

Average Students

11,927

Average Buses

139

Average
Bus
Occupancy
85.81



### ESE Weighted Funding Allocation: Who Is Eligible?

- ESE student eligibility for weighted transportation funding is limited to students requiring additional specialized transportation services.
- Eligible students transported by private vehicles and eligible students for whom the district pays public transit fares are treated as any other transported students.
- Weighted funding can only be claimed for students riding on a school bus (vehicle category B).



#### **Sequence of Surveys**

- Survey Period 1 (July) from the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1) to the beginning of the defined 180-day school year.
- Survey Period 2 (October) the first 90 days of the 180day school year.
- Survey Period 3 (February) the second 90 days of the 180-day school year.
- Survey Period 4 (June) from the end of the 180-day school program to the end of the fiscal year (June 30).



- First Calculation:
  - Completed immediately after the annual legislative session.
  - Based on districts' number of eligible students transported from the transportation surveys for:
    - July, preceding fiscal year.
    - October, preceding fiscal year.
    - February, preceding fiscal year.
    - June, second preceding fiscal year.



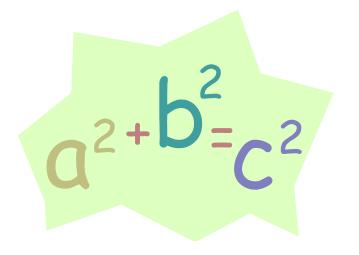


- Second Calculation:
  - Completed upon receipt of student data from districts' transportation surveys for:
    - July, current fiscal year.
    - October, current fiscal year.
    - February, duplicated October data.
    - June, preceding fiscal year.





- Third Calculation:
  - Completed upon receipt of student data from districts' transportation surveys for:
    - July, current fiscal year.
    - October, current fiscal year.
    - February, current fiscal year.
    - June, preceding fiscal year.





Normal session (odd years)



Calculated after the close of statewide processing

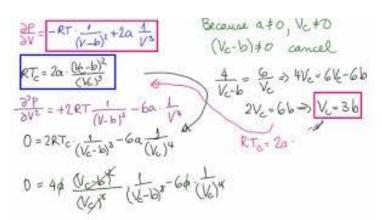
Early session (even years)



Calculated after the close of the amendment window



- Final Calculation:
  - Completed upon receipt of student data from districts' transportation surveys for:
    - July, current fiscal year.
    - October, current fiscal year.
    - February, current fiscal year.
    - June, current fiscal year.





#### **Base Allocation Students**

#### **Example: Alachua**

Adjusted July Students 0.00

Adjusted
October
Students
4,078.00

Adjusted February Students 4,078.00

+

Adjusted
June
Students
8.09

Total
Adjusted
Students
8,164.09



#### **Base Allocation Factor**

Total
Adjusted Base
Students
8,164.09



X

Florida
Price Level
Index
1.0019

X

Average
Bus Occupancy
Index
0.9697

X

Rurality Index

0.9423

Base Allocation Factor 7,474.10



#### **Exceptional Students Allocation**

Adjusted
July ESE
Students
0.00

Adjusted
October ESE
Students
197.00

+

Adjusted
February ESE
Students
197.00

+

Adjusted June ESE Students 7.70

Total
Adjusted ESE
Students
401.70

X

Factor of 1.8

=

Weighted
Adjusted
ESE
Students
723.06



#### **ESE Allocation Factor**



Total
Weighted Adjusted ESE
Students
723.06

X

Florida
Price Level
Index
1.0019

X

Average
Bus Occupancy
Index
0.9697

X

Rurality Index

0.9423



=

ESE
Allocation Factor
661.95

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25



### Family Empowerment Transportation Scholarship

Each FES Transportation scholarship shall be the greater of \$750 or the district's cost.

District FES Total \$1,312.50



#### **Funding Summary: State Base Allocation**

District
ESE
Allocation
Factor
661.95

X

Appropriated Funds Per Student

\$1,044

District ESE Allocation

\$691,075.80

Total State Allocation 2023-2024 \$535,831,174 Total
State ESE
Allocation
\$66,691,443

FES
Transportation
Funding
\$522,000

Total
State Base
Allocation
\$535,831,174



#### **Membership Eligibility Categories**



**Membership Category L:** Individuals With Disabilities Education Act - Prekindergarten Through Grade 12, Weighted.

Membership Category F: Teenage Parents and Infants, Unweighted.

**Membership Category G:** Hazardous Walking, Elementary, Unweighted.

**Membership Category M:** All Other FEFP Transportation Funding-Eligible Students, Unweighted.

**Membership Category N**: Non-FEFP-Fundable Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Students.



# Pre-K Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Teen Parent ONLY

- Pre-K students are only eligible for funding under s. 1011.68, F.S. if the transported student:
  - Is a Pre-K student with disabilities (IDEA) under Rule 6A-6.03026, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), regardless of distance, and who meets criteria for funding, either weighted or un-weighted.
  - Is a Pre-K age child of a student parent enrolled in a Teenage Parent Program (TAP) under s. 1003.54, F.S.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Pre-K children <u>not</u> enrolled in IDEA programs, or whose parent or parents are <u>not</u> enrolled in a TAP program, are <u>not</u> eligible for state transportation funding. Ineligible programs include: Pre-K Title I, federally funded Pre-K Migrant Programs, Pre-K Early Intervention, Head Start, voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) and Readiness Coalition programs.



#### **Hazardous Walking**

- K-5 elementary <u>only</u> students are eligible under hazardous walking. If the elementary school includes grade 6, then funding is extended to these students.
- Location must be inspected by district, road jurisdiction, law enforcement and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), where applicable.
- District, road jurisdiction, law enforcement and MPO must all agree that the location meets hazardous walking criteria.



#### **Hazardous Walking**

- District or charter schools must document qualifying conditions, including speed limits, traffic counts and the condition of roads, walking surfaces, intersections and traffic controls. An FDOE checklist is available.
- District must request a projected completion date for correcting hazard.



#### **Ridership and Surveys**

- For each eligible student, the district or charter school must verify the specific bus (or other vehicle) and the days during the survey week (or preceding six days) when the student rode, or at least the first day. Must be signed by the school bus operator and dated as a source document.
- PLEASE NOTE: Transportation ridership/membership is based on survey week AND the six days prior to survey week.



#### Ridership and Surveys

- Sample Ridership Worksheet for Bus Operators is available. This "roll call" sheet must provide the following information, at a minimum:
  - School District Number (where student receives current instruction/service).
  - Florida Education Identifier (FLEID) for each transported student.
  - Survey Period Code.
  - Fiscal Year.
  - Year-Round/Extended School Year Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Indicator.
  - Days In Term.
  - Transportation Membership Category.
  - Vehicle Category.
  - Bus Number.
  - Bus Route Number.
  - School District Number (where the student is currently enrolled).
  - Date and signature of driver.



#### **Bus Operator Worksheets**

- Bus Operator Worksheets should be neat, legible and complete (including a signature).
- Completed worksheets should be reviewed, verified and signed by a supervisor.
- Bus Operator Worksheets need to be signed and dated as of the survey week.
- Although hardcopies of driver worksheets with original signatures are preferred, school districts who maintain scanned, electronic student database reports may use similar approved reporting formats for transportation record keeping. These formats must be coordinated with the district Management Information Systems (MIS).



### **Sample Ridership Data Collection Form**

SAMPLE STUDENT RIDERSHIP DATA COLLECTION FORM															Л													
		Signature of Driver: Buste't Bussman															$\neg$											
Vehicle Category B Fiscal Year 17/18 Driver (print) Buster Bussman																					$\dashv$							
Bus #	2015-11 Route # Student Student ID #	63521 Survey		01-Alachua District # of	District # of		Friday 01/26/18		Monday 01/29/18		Tuesday 01/30/18		Wednesday		7018 Thursday 02/01/18		Friday 2/2/18		Monday 02/05/18		Tuesday 02/06/18		Wednesday 02/07/18		Thursday 02/08/18		Friday 2/9/2018	
#	# School # Grade		Category	Instructional Services	Enrollment	АМ	PM	АМ	PM	AM	PM	АМ	PM	AM	PM	АМ	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
1	Ralph K. Stowmaker 199887766554321 1152 9	E	М	1	1	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	
1	Jim Bob Dishwasher 200112233445589 101 8	E	М	1	1	[]	[]	[]	[]	П	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	П	[]	
1	Bartholwew P. Simpson 199887766556565 7022 9	E	L	54	1	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	
2	Johnnie B. Goodman 200112233470597 101 8	E	N	1	1	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
2	Bob E. Bowden 199887766581567 1152 9	E	N	1	1	[x]	[x]	[x]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[x]	[x]	[X]	[]	[x]	[x]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[x]	[]	[X]	[]	
2	Jane C. Moore 200112233495605 101 8	E	F	1	1	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
3	Jack N. Jillhill 199887766606569 7022 9	E	L	54	1	[X]	[X]	[x]	[X]	[X]	[]	[x]	[]	[X]	[]	[x]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	[X]	[]	
4	Garfield N. Odie 200112233520613 1152 8	E	N	1	1	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[x]	[]	
4	Jim B. Fisherman 199887766631571 1152 9	E	М	1	1	[X]	[x]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[x]	[X]	[]	[]	[x]	[x]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	Larry D. Cableman 200112233545621 101 8	E	М	1	1	[]	[X]	[x]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[x]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	John D. Cook 199887766656573 1152 9	E	М	1	1	[]	[]	[x]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[x]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	Joe D. Phummer 200112233795631 101 8	E	M	1	1	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	П	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	Mark D. Bossman 199887766681575 1152 9	E	М	1	1	[x]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	П	[]	[x]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	Marco Polo 200112234045646 1152 8	E	N	1	1	[]	[]	П	[]	П	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[x]	[]	
4	John Walton 199887766710580 1152 9	E	М	1	1	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	Larry Theotherbrother 200112234070662 101 8	E	M	1	1	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	John D. Cooksey 199887766960901 1152 9	E	М	1	1	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	П	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	Joe D. Biden 200112234320912 101 8	E	М	1	1	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
4	Maria L. Valasquez 199887767025903 1152 9	E	М	1	1	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[X]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	п	[]	
						[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
						[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	



#### **Approved Conveyances**

- Districts and charter schools must maintain vehicle inventory records and written contracts or agreements to verify that vehicles claimed in daily service are one of the following:
  - B: School buses meeting Florida school bus specifications.
  - E: Passenger cars or allowable multipurpose passenger vehicles (MPV) owned, operated or contracted by the school board, transporting fewer than 10 students.
  - P: Privately owned motor vehicles or boats for disabled or isolated students, or for when transportation on a school bus is impractical.
  - G: General purpose transportation (city buses, trains, etc.).



#### **Approved Conveyances**

- For general purpose transportation, a list identifying students who are provided city bus passes, train vouchers, etc., must be maintained, along with other records to verify ridership and dates.
- For students claimed riding in private passenger cars or boats, the district or charter school must maintain board minutes reflecting mileage to the bus route or school, names of the students and school attended, pursuant to Rule 6A-3.0171(11), F.A.C.







- Ensure retention of records to document students' home addresses at the time of the scheduled survey.
- Prevent duplication of students and counting of any individual student on more than one bus or mode during survey week.
- For each student, document the eligibility category. Edits may be implemented to cross-check against school records.



#### **Summer School Eligibility**

- Only two types of students are eligible to receive transportation funding during the summer:
  - Exceptional education students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) requires extended school year services <u>and</u> transportation as a related service. These can be either weighted or unweighted students.
  - Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) students in a day treatment facility who also receive FEFP funding during the summer.
- All other students transported during Survey 1 and Survey 4 must be reported under category "N."



#### **Summer School**

If the July or June summer school or supplemental academic instruction period is scheduled so that it takes place outside the regularly scheduled survey week window, a separate survey week must be established to cover these students. The middle day or middle week of the summer period should be used as the basis for establishment of the survey week. This effort must be coordinated with the district FTE administrator so that the same survey week is established for both FTE and transportation reporting.



#### **FDOE Post-Survey Reviews**

- Education Information Services (EIS) prepares reports following each survey comparing current and prior surveys' data for each district's:
  - Adjusted base FTE students transported.
  - Adjusted ESE FTE students transported.
  - Buses in daily service.
  - Resulting funding calculation.
- Education Information and Accountability Services report identifies variations in these data of  $\geq$  5%.
- Florida Department of Education Offices (EIS, Office of Funding and Financial Reporting, School Transportations Management Section) contact respective local district counterparts.
- Variations are outlined. Explanations are requested and documented.



#### **FDOE Post-Survey Reviews**

- Variations due to inaccuracy of reported data are corrected by districts.
- Variations that are valid are documented as to causes.
- Overall goal (and result) is accuracy of reporting and improved timeliness, and ensuring that district staff are aware of reported data.
- Process ensures accountability to the legislature and others.



#### Resources

- FDOE School Transportation: <u>www.fldoe.org/transportation</u>.
  - Quality Links: Florida School District Transportation Profiles.
- FDOE Funding and Reporting: <u>www.fldoe.org/fefp</u>.
  - Student Transportation General Instructions.
  - All Transportation reporting memorandums posted at "Transportation" link.
- FDOE Education Information Services: <u>www.fldoe.org/eias</u>.



#### **Transportation Reporting Contacts**

- Robert Manspeaker
   School Transportation Management
   (850) 245-9795
   Robert.Manspeaker@fldoe.org
- James Andrews
   Office of Funding & Financial Reporting
   (850) 245-0405
   james.Andrews@fldoe.org
- Kristi Ham
   Education Information & Accountability Services
   (850) 245-0400
   Kristi.Ham@fldoe.org





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### Questions?







