

Transportation to Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness Programs

Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.88, Subdivision 12, provides that “Districts may provide bus transportation along regular school bus routes when space is available for participants in early childhood family education programs and school readiness programs if these services do not result in an increase in the district’s expenditures for transportation. The costs allocated to these services, as determined by generally accepted accounting principles, shall be considered part of the authorized cost for regular transportation for the purposes of section 123B.92.”

If a school district changes a regular-scheduled school bus route by adding additional miles so that Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and School Readiness students can be transported, then the district must allocate a cost to the appropriate expenditure codes in Fund 4, Community Service. The extra miles increase the district’s expenditures for transportation.

The extra miles for these routes will be reported with the non-authorized (Finance Dimension 733) miles on the year-end Pupil Transportation Annual Report. The cost for these miles should be coded to Finance Dimension 325 or 344 in Fund 4. Districts should further identify these expenditures in these Finance Dimensions by using Object Dimension 360, Transportation Contracts with Private or Public Carriers, or Object Dimension 365, Transportation Chargebacks.

Districts will not be required to report the number of ECFE or School Readiness students transported by the district on the year-end transportation report or MARSS file.

Further, Minnesota Statutes, section 169.685, Subdivision 5, requires every motor vehicle operator to use a child passenger restraint system when transporting a child who is both under the age of eight and shorter than four feet nine inches in a “motor vehicle equipped with factory- installed seat belts.” Because Types A, B, C and D and multifunction school activity buses are exempt from the seat belt requirement, school districts and contract operators are not required to use an infant seat or child passenger restraint system when transporting a child who is both under the age of eight and shorter than four feet nine inches in Types A, B, C and D and multifunction school activity buses. If a child is being transported in a Type III school bus (passenger cars, station wagons, vans) with factory-installed seat belts, a child passenger restraint system meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards would be required by law.

If you have any questions about student transportation contact [Julie Belisle](#) or 651-582-8265.