



Open Enrollment Policies 2022

Who is responsible for student transportation?

March 2022

This datapoint captures state policies addressing student transportation to schools outside of their attendance zone, including the entity responsible and available financial assistance.

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
Alabama	Not specified in state policy.	
Alaska	Not specified in state policy.	
Arizona	The receiving district. Each district's open enrollment policies must include transportation provisions. A receiving district may provide transportation for income-eligible students living in an adjacent school district, up to 30 miles each way to and from the school or a point on a regular transportation route. A receiving district must provide transportation, up to 30 miles each way, for students with a disability or an individualized education plan.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-816.01

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
Arkansas	<p>Parents are responsible for student transportation, unless they are transferring out of a school with an "F" rating or district identified for intensive support or classified as in facilities distress.</p> <p>Resident districts of students transferring out of a school with an "F" rating or district identified for intensive support are responsible for transportation costs at a rate of no more than \$400 per student. The resident district is no longer responsible for transportation costs if the school or district classification improves.</p> <p>Resident districts of students that transferred due to the district being classified as in facilities distress must cover the cost of transportation to the nonresident district.</p>	<p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-227</p> <p>Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq.</p>
California	<p>Upon the request of the parent, receiving districts may provide transportation assistance to the extent that the district otherwise provides transportation assistance to other students.</p> <p>Receiving districts in an agreement with another district to allow for interdistrict transfers must provide transportation assistance to students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.</p>	<p>Cal. Educ. Code § 46600</p> <p>Cal. Educ. Code § 48311</p>
Colorado	<p>The state transportation token program provides transportation to another school for students enrolled in or living in the attendance zone of a designated low-performing school and for students (grades 1-8) eligible for free and reduced lunch and enrolled in a low-performing school. Transportation tokens may be used for public transportation or other forms of approved transportation. It is not clear if this program is currently in effect.</p>	<p>Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-122</p>
Connecticut	<p>Voluntary Intradistrict and Interdistrict: Local education agencies may provide transportation, but are not required to.</p> <p>Mandatory Interdistrict: Regional education service centers are awarded grants from the state education agency to provide transportation within reasonable limits set by the SEA.</p>	<p>Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-221e</p> <p>Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-266aa</p>

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
Delaware	Parents are responsible for transportation. Students in grades 6-12 may use bus passes purchased by the school district if the district elects to purchase passes in lieu of district or contracted transportation options.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 409 Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 2901
District of Columbia	Not specified in state policy.	
Florida	Parents are responsible for transportation. School districts may provide transportation and it must be addressed in their open enrollment policies. School districts are permitted to withhold Title I funding in order to provide transportation for students in foster care to their school of origin or choice programs.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.31 Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1011.69
Georgia	Parents are responsible for transportation. However, school districts may contract with one another for transportation.	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-293 Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-294 Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-2131 Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 160-5-4-.09
Hawaii	Not specified in state policy.	
Idaho	Parents are responsible for the transportation of students to and from the school or an appropriate bus stop within the receiving district.	Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1402
Illinois	Not specified in state policy.	
Indiana	Parents are responsible for student transportation in cases where a student relocated to a new district following two consecutive years of enrollment in the receiving district.	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-26-11-30

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
Iowa	<p>The sending district is responsible for providing transportation to students or paying the pro rata cost of the transportation to a parent or guardian with a household income of less than or equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.</p> <p>Parents are responsible for transportation for students who do not meet income eligibility requirements.</p>	<p>Iowa Code Ann. § 282.18</p> <p>Iowa Admin. Code r. 281-17.9(282)</p>
Kansas	<p>The interdistrict agreement must include provision for transportation and for payment or sharing of transportation costs.</p>	
Kentucky	<p>Sending and receiving districts who have entered into a tuition contract to enroll a student must share the total cost including transportation.</p>	<p>Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.120</p>
Louisiana	<p>If a student transfers to an adjoining school district because their transportation time to school was at least an hour, the adjoining school system will provide transportation to the student if it is less than an hour.</p> <p>If a student in a school with a performance letter grade of D or F transfers to a school with a performance grade of A, B, or C, no school system is obligated to provide transportation outside of system geographic boundaries if this would result in additional cost to the school system.</p>	<p>La. Stat. Ann. § 17:105.1</p> <p>La. Stat. Ann. § 17:4035.1</p>
Maine	<p>When a sending district has a contract with another district because the sending district does not have a school, the sending district is responsible for transportation costs. When school districts have policies allowing transfers between school districts, the policies must address standards of responsibility for transportation issues. In other cases, the parents are responsible for transportation costs.</p>	<p>Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 5401</p> <p>Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 5203</p> <p>Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 5204</p> <p>Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 5205</p>
Maryland	<p>Not specified in state policy.</p>	

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
Massachusetts	<p>Not specified in state policy. Subject to appropriation, a reimbursement program may be established for students eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches. Reimbursable transportation includes 1) school bus costs provided by the sending or receiving district, 2) transportation provided by the student's parent or guardian, 3) transportation provided by public transportation systems. Transportation costs for students attending a school to avoid racial imbalance or racial isolation will be covered by the state.</p>	<p>Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 76, § 12B Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 76, § 12A</p>
Michigan	<p>Neither the sending nor receiving district is obligated to provide transportation. However, the receiving district must provide the student's parents/guardians with information on available transportation to and from the school.</p>	<p>Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1705 Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1705c</p>
Minnesota	<p>Parents/guardians and/or receiving districts. If requested by a parent/guardian, the receiving district must provide transportation within the district. The parent/guardian may be reimbursed by the receiving district for the costs of transportation from the student's residence to the border of the receiving district if the family income is at or below the federal poverty level. A district that provides transportation to and from an interdistrict program for desegregation/integration is eligible for state reimbursement of transportation costs.</p>	<p>Minn. Stat. Ann. § 124D.03 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 124D.87</p>
Mississippi	<p>School boards may include provisions regarding student transportation in their open enrollment agreements. If such a provision is not included in the agreement, the parent/guardian of the student is responsible for student transportation.</p>	<p>Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-15-31</p>
Missouri	<p>If a district does not maintain a high school offering instruction through the 12th grade, the district must pay tuition and provide transportation for each student to attend an accredited public high school in another district in the same or adjoining county. In the Metropolitan Schools Achieving Value in Transfer Corporation in St. Louis, the corporation's board of directors must make provision for transportation of students.</p>	<p>Mo. Ann. Stat. § 167.131 Mo. Ann. Stat. § 162.1060</p>

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
Montana	The attendance agreement for enrollment must establish the financial obligations for transportation costs. In cases where the student has approval to attend a school in a receiving district as the result of a parent/guardian request, the parent/guardian is responsible for transportation costs.	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-320 Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-324
Nebraska	Parent/guardian. A district may, in agreement with a parent/guardian, provide transportation to an open enrollment student as provided for resident students, and may charge a transportation fee. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches are eligible for either free transportation, or for reimbursement for transportation expenses. For students with a disability, transportation services are provided by the sending district, and the Nebraska Department of Education will reimburse the sending district for those costs.	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-241
Nevada	The sending district. If a district pays an additional cost for transporting a student who lives on a reservation located in two or more counties to a school outside of the district, that district is entitled to be reimbursed for those costs by the school district in which the pupil is enrolled.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.010 Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.015
New Hampshire	Neither the sending nor receiving district is obligated to provide transportation for students attending an open enrollment school outside of their resident district.	N.H. Rev. Stat. § 194-D:2
New Jersey	The sending district. Transportation, or aid in lieu of transportation, must be provided to elementary school students who live 2 to 20 miles from the school and to secondary school students who live 2.5 to 20 miles away from the school. The sending and receiving district may enter into a shared service agreement for transportation. The sending district will receive state aid for transportation costs as specified.	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:36B-22
New Mexico	<p>Receiving districts may make policies about transporting out-of-district students at no additional cost to the school transportation fund, including allowing students to board the bus at the last stop on an approved route if space is available.</p> <p>For students who have transferred out of a school with an F rating but stayed within the same district, the sending school district (excluding state-authorized charter schools) is responsible for the transportation and transportation costs.</p>	N.M. Admin. Code 6.42.2.10 N.M. Admin. Code 6.19.8.8

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
New York	Not specified in state policy.	
North Carolina	Not permitted.	
North Dakota	<p>If a student is transferring because they were a victim of documented violence at their current school, their current school was declared unsafe, or their current school has been identified as requiring program improvement for six consecutive years, the sending district must either transport the student to school in the receiving district or reimburse the receiving district for transportation costs. This is in effect until either the conclusion of the school year, or until the superintendent of public instruction declares that the sending district is no longer unsafe or no longer requiring program improvement.</p> <p>For students participating in open enrollment generally, the sending and receiving districts may provide transportation, but neither are required to do so. Districts may not receive transportation aid disbursements for transporting students participating in open enrollment.</p>	<p>N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-31-08 N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-31-05</p>
Ohio	<p>Parents are responsible for transportation, although receiving districts may provide transportation to and from a bus stop along a regular bus route within the district. Receiving districts may reimburse low-income families for the cost of transporting a student to and from the bus stop. In addition, school boards may be required to provide transportation in accordance with a court-approved desegregation plan.</p>	<p>Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.97 Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.98 Ohio Rev. Code Ann. 3313.981 Ohio Rev. Code Ann.3327.05</p>
Oklahoma	<p>Upon parental request, the receiving district may provide such transportation only within the boundaries of the receiving school district. A receiving school district will not cross school district boundaries to transport a student transferred. However, two school districts may make an agreement allowing the receiving district to transport students inside the boundaries of the sending district.</p>	<p>Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 9-101 Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 9-105</p>
Oregon	Not specified in state policy.	

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
Pennsylvania	Free transportation for students where schools closed in certain districts and had to enroll in another district.	24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 13-1312
Rhode Island	The state provides for transportation for students who attend a school located outside the city or town limits where they reside but only within defined transportation regions.	16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-21.1-1
South Carolina	Not specified in state policy. However, State, acting through the State Board of Education, assumes no obligation to transport any student to or from school for any student who attends a school outside the school attendance zone in which the student resides when the same grade is taught in an appropriate school that is located within the school district in which the student resides.	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-67-420
South Dakota	Parents are responsible for transportation, and sending or receiving districts are not required to provide transportation. However, the receiving district may enter into an agreement to provide transportation within the boundaries of a sending district at an approved pick-up location. Receiving districts may charge a reasonable fee.	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-41.1 S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-45
Tennessee	Parent or guardian of the student is responsible for transportation to the new school. The student must maintain satisfactory attendance, behavior, and effort to remain in the new school.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-2-128
Texas	For students transferring out of a low-performing school under the public education grant program, sending districts will provide transportation costs to and from the students' assigned schools.	Tex. Educ. Code § 29.203
Utah	<p>Parent or guardian of the student is responsible for transportation. However, the state board may adopt rules under which nonresident students may be transported to their schools of attendance.</p> <p>A receiving district shall provide transportation for a nonresident student on the basis of available space on an approved route within the district to the school of attendance and the student's presence does not increase the cost of the bus route.</p>	Utah Code Ann. § 53G-6-405

STATE	Who is responsible for student transportation?	Citation for transportation
Vermont	Not specified in state policy.	
Virginia	Districts may require that parents provide transportation.	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-7.1
Washington	Not Addressed.	
West Virginia	The county board for the county educating the nonresident student may provide an adequate means of transportation to nonresident students when students are a nonresident student meets the eligibility criteria for free or reduced price lunch or if the nonresident student is a student with disabilities and has an individualized education program that specifies that transportation is necessary for fulfillment of the program	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-16
Wisconsin	Parents are responsible for transportation, but receiving districts must provide transportation for students with a disability. Low-income parents may apply to state for reimbursement. Districts may enter into agreements to provide transportation for out-of-district students. If either the sending or receiving district operates a program of intradistrict transfers, that district is responsible for the cost of transportation. A district may contract directly for transportation or reimburse another district for the cost. A district may provide transportation for a student attending a public school outside his or her attendance area of residence.	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.51 Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.54
Wyoming	The board of trustees of any school district within the state will provide transportation or maintenance for isolated school pupils resident within the district, whenever it would be in the best interests of the affected children to provide transportation to serve these pupils.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-502 Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-401
Puerto Rico	Not specified in state policy.	