

# LAWS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDED ROUTES

Fall Reports Training 9/24/18



# 9/18/18 NEWS ARTICLE

“Widespread violation of state law”

“Widespread noncompliance”

“Penalties for noncompliance”

“Penalties for noncompliance must be real and active part of the school fees system”



## School fees audit finds 'widespread violations' of Utah law by school boards

By Marjorie Cortez, KSL | Posted - Sep 18th, 2018 @ 11:34am

## R277-600-2 Definitions

- (4)(a) "Approved costs" means the Board approved costs of transporting eligible students from home to school to home once each day, after-school routes, approved routes for students with disabilities and vocational students attending school outside their regularly assigned attendance boundary.



# 53A-17a-127 Eligibility for state-supported transportation

1

(4) (a) Approved bus routes for funding purposes shall be determined on fall data collected by October 1.

2

(b) Approved route funding shall be determined on the basis of the most efficient and economic routes.

## R277-600-3 General Provisions

(1)(a) The Superintendent shall use state transportation funds to reimburse school districts for the costs reasonably related to transporting students to and from school.

(b) The Board shall define the limits of a school district's transportation costs reimbursable by state funds in a manner that encourages safety, economy, and efficiency.



# STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

R277-600-4

## (2) Eligibility for Regular Ed. Students

- Elementary (K-6) = 1.5 miles from school
- Secondary (7-12) = 2.0 miles from school



(6) Measured from the middle of the public route in front of student's home to the middle of the public route opposite the nearest entrance to the school grounds

- Private lanes, roads, etc. do not count in these measurements

# STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

R277-600-4

(3) (3) A student whose IEP identifies transportation as a necessary related service is eligible for transportation regardless of distance from the school attended by assignment of the local school board.

(4) (4) A student who attends school for at least one-half day at a location other than the local school board designated school is not eligible for transportation for distances up to one and one-half miles.



# ELIGIBLE STUDENT STOPS

R277-600-6.6 Students are responsible to get themselves to the bus stop up to 1.5 miles from their home

R277-600-7 Alternative Transportation

- Identify if alternative method of transporting students is more efficient.
- Students may be reimbursed for the mileage to the assigned bus stop or school
- Multipurpose vehicles are approved costs as long as the costs demonstrate efficiency



# QUALIFYING RULES / ROUTE APPROVAL

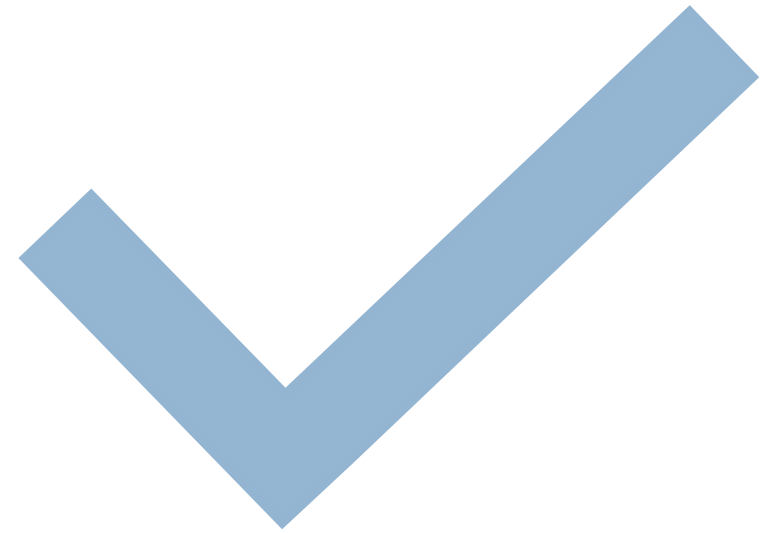
R277-600-6

(3) A bus route shall:

- (a) traverse the most direct public route;
- (b) be reasonably cost-effective in comparison to other feasible alternatives;
- (c) provide adequate safety for students;
- (d) traverse roads that are constructed and maintained in a manner that does not cause property damage; and
- (e) include an economically appropriate number of students.

# QUALIFYING RULES / ROUTE APPROVAL

- Provide Safety, be economic and efficient (53A-17a-127)
- To promote efficiency, the USOE approved minimum distance between bus stops is 3/10 of a mile. The USOE may approve shorter distances between bus stops for student safety. (State Standards 2010)





# A-1 Rules for funded routes

## Qualifying for FULL miles/minutes

- At least ten (10) Eligible Regular Ed. Students
- At least five (5) Disabled (IEP) students
- At least one wheelchair and one disabled student
  - Disabled (IEP) students count as 2 students
  - Wheel Chair student counts as 4 students
- Route runs at least 15 days during the regular school year with the same group of students
- Route runs at least 10 days during the extended year (Summer School) with the same group of students

# A-1 Rules for funded routes

## Qualifying for Half Miles (bus or MPV)

- Less than 10 Eligible Regular Ed / 5 Disabled (IEP) students
- Minimum of 4 students total
- Less expensive than paying In Lieu



# Exceptions

## Exceptions - R277-600-11

- When undue hardships and inequities are created through the exact application of these standards, school districts may request an exception to these rules from the State Superintendent on individual cases. [R277-600-11(A)]
  - Letter requesting exception should be sent to State Superintendent with
    - Written evidence demonstrating that no significant increased costs (less than 1% of school district's transportation budget) is incurred due to a waiver OR that students cannot be provided services consistent with the law due to transportation exigencies
  - Letter is due at the same time as the A1



# Agreements and Extensions

## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- If two or more districts enter into an agreement regarding transporting students across district boundaries, the boards of both districts need to approve this in an open meeting and sign a MOU. This MOU must be turned in to the USOE.

## Extension to November 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline:

- Must send a letter to Natalie Grange signed by your Superintendent and Business Administrator that:
  - Identifies reason for extension and the date when report will be turned in





Any  
Questions?

