Ground Floor, State Capitol Building Des Moines, Iowa 50319 515.281.3566

Nonpublic School Transportation

Program Overview

School districts are required to provide transportation services to nonpublic students, and the school districts are reimbursed for the costs of these services based on the standing General Fund appropriation made to the Department of Education.

Reimbursements to School Districts

The program, as mandated in Iowa Code section 285.1(14), states that resident pupils attending a nonpublic school (either in or outside of the public school district boundaries) are entitled to transportation on the same basis as provided to resident public school students. Districts submit claims to the Department based on the costs of transporting resident nonpublic students. Additionally, parents who transport their nonpublic students to school may file a claim with the school district of residence, which then files the claim with the Department. After all claims are processed, a lump sum payment accounting for all processed claims and the level of appropriation (if there is a cap on the appropriation amount) is provided to the school district. If needed, the district makes individual payments to parents who filed a claim with the district.

Funding

Funding for the program is based on a standing unlimited appropriation specified in Iowa Code section 285.2(1)(b). Since FY 2003, the General Assembly has appropriated less than the amount in Code. Based on data from the Department of Education, the nonpublic school transportation provision has not been fully funded since FY 2002. The table on page 2 provides information on the appropriation amounts for the period FY 1987 through FY 2018.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code sections 285.1, 285.2, and 285.3

More Information

Iowa Department of Education, Nonpublic Transportation Reimbursement: www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/school-transportation/nonpublic-reimbursement

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Nonpublic School Transportation

	Appropriation Amount	Payment Reimbursement Factor	Estimated Claim Amount
FY 1987	$ 6,098,910	N.A.	$ 6,098,910
FY 1988	5,922,211	N.A.	5,922,211
FY 1989	5,990,351	N.A.	5,990,351
FY 1990	6,118,766	N.A.	6,118,766
FY 1991	6,258,072	N.A.	6,258,072
FY 1992	5,902,059	N.A.	5,902,059
FY 1993	5,594,293	N.A.	5,594,293
FY 1994	6,610,605	N.A.	6,610,605
FY 1995	6,747,143	N.A.	6,747,143
FY 1996	6,900,732	N.A.	6,900,732
FY 1997	7,415,523	N.A.	7,415,523
FY 1998	7,469,184	N.A.	7,469,184
FY 1999	7,598,000	N.A.	7,598,000
FY 2000	8,010,644	N.A.	8,010,644
FY 2001	8,315,505	N.A.	8,315,505
FY 2002	7,798,144	N.A.	7,798,144
FY 2003	7,799,550	92.5%	8,435,594
FY 2004	7,624,060	91.8%	8,309,602
FY 2005	7,955,541	95.0%	8,375,135
FY 2006	8,273,763	91.4%	9,051,465
FY 2007	8,604,714	93.5%	9,206,664
FY 2008	8,604,714	88.7%	9,702,832
FY 2009	8,475,643	86.7%	9,780,759
FY 2010	7,060,931	72.9%	9,685,589
FY 2011	7,060,931	82.5%	8,555,322
FY 2012	7,060,931	68.5%	10,303,142
FY 2013	7,060,931	70.7%	9,993,182
FY 2014	8,560,931	83.7%	10,226,171
FY 2015	8,560,931	82.2%	10,412,535
FY 2016	8,560,931	80.8%	10,596,536
FY 2017	8,282,701	79.5%	10,501,775
FY 2018	8,197,091	Unavailable	Unavailable

Since FY 2003, the appropriation for nonpublic transportation has been capped, resulting in claims being prorated.