



ISSUE: Inadequate Transportation Revenue

In Minnesota, school districts must provide transportation services for all students living two miles or more from the school they attend.

School districts receive transportation funding as a percentage of their General Education Basic Formula amount per student. Some districts also receive transportation sparsity revenue if they have a low ratio of students to square miles in their district. As all chartered public schools are school districts, they also receive transportation funding through the formula unless they choose to partner with their local school district for transportation services.

STATUTORY REFERENCE: MN Statutes 123B.88, 126C.10, 124E.15

Transportation costs continue to rise due to rising fuel costs, scarcity of drivers and other resources driving up costs, and other unique issues. However, as these costs continue to rise each year the amount of transportation funding allocated to schools has not kept up. Schools are forced to draw funding away from other important educational priorities to fulfill the obligations related to the transportation of students.

- **Example:** The projected transportation costs of one charter school serving approximately 1000 students has transportation costs of \$905,000 for the 2021 -2022 school year. It will receive \$492,000 or 54.4% of the costs from Transportation/Transportation Sparsity Revenue. Thus, the school will need to spend about \$413,000, or about \$410 per student out of the general revenue to cover the difference. That is \$410 out of funding for the classroom.

POLICY SOLUTION: Increase Transportation Funding

- **Provide all Public Schools Adequate Transportation Funding to meet the increased costs of student transportation**

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