School Transportation  
2020 Allegheny County Update

Which Students are School Districts Responsible for Transporting?

When a district chooses not to provide transportation to traditional public school students:
- Must provide transportation services to charter school students

When a district chooses to provide transportation to traditional public school students:
- Must provide mirrored services to non-public/private & charter school students

10 Mile Rule:
Traditional public school districts must transport students attending charter schools and non-public/private schools located within 10 miles of a district’s furthest boundary.

There are 380 different locations students can be transported to.

In the 2017-18 SY districts transported approximately 90,000 students.

43 School Districts

248 Traditional Public School Buildings

28 Brick and Mortar Charter Schools

107 Non-public/Private Schools

Transportation cost districts $157 million

Less than half of school transportation expenses are reimbursed by the PA Department of Education.

an average of 40% of expenses are reimbursed
### Challenges
- School Bus Driver Shortage
- Different School Calendars
- Variable Start Times
- Complicated Routes
- State and Federal Policy Mandates

### Possible Solutions
- Public Transit
- Sharing Transportation Services
- Centralized Drop-off Points
- Regional Transportation Coordinating System

### Enrollment and Providers

#### Student Enrollment
Traditional public school enrollment has remained stagnant since 2016-17 while charter school enrollment has increased by over 1,000 students and non-public enrollment has decreased slightly.

#### Utilizing Port Authority Transportation
15 school districts utilize PAT in some capacity. Districts are reimbursed at 100% of the reimbursement rate for passes. PAT passes can be used for after-school programs, sports, jobs, and more. Additionally, PAT passes give students multiple opportunities to get to school whereas the yellow school bus only comes one time.

#### Student Transportation Contractors
There are over 25 different transportation contractors working with school districts.

8 of the 25 contractors provide nearly 90% of yellow bus transportation.

#### How Districts Overcome Challenges with the Yellow Bus
- Districts compensate individuals/family members
- Districts contract with other districts for transportation
- Districts utilize fee for service providers such as PAT, yellow cab, or z-trip

To read our transportation report, visit [www.alliesforchildren.org/resources](http://www.alliesforchildren.org/resources)

Sources include PA State Code & Pennsylvania Department of Education