



Transportation Funding: Impact and Concerns

Legislative Education Study Committee: June 23, 2021

Overview of RRPS Transportation

Numbers, schedules, etc.



Overview

- 80 School Buses and 64 Bus Routes
 - Most routes have a 4 tier system--each driver picks up and delivers to four locations
- There are approximately 14,000 students eligible to ride the school bus
- Bus Route Times
 - AM - buses run from 5:45 AM - 9:30 AM
 - PM - buses run from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Funding

Lack of Appropriate Revenue



19/20 Transportation Budget

Salaries	\$1,255,696
Overtime	\$147,763
Additional Comp	\$290,872
Benefits	\$939,050
Prof Development	\$1,282
Maint & Repair	\$80,687
Cell Phones	\$6,482
*Per Capita Feeders	\$4,523

Property & Liability Insurance	\$99,842
GPS Services, uniforms, random drug tests, bus forms/postage, fuel tank inspections, etc.	\$52,369
Bus Inspections	\$7,826
VersaTrans System Software	\$11,079
General Supplies	\$16,023

Diesel Fuel	\$428,797
Lubricants, etc.	\$15,084
Tires/Tubes	\$46,659
Maintenance Supplies	\$110,488

These numbers only include major expenditures.

*The local board may provide per capita or per mile reimbursement to a parent or guardian in cases where regular school bus transportation services are not available or impractical because of distance, road conditions or sparseness of population or in cases where the local board has authorized a parent to receive reimbursement for travel costs incurred by having a child attend a school outside the child's attendance zone.



Funding

- The last school year that we were fully funded for Transportation was the 2008/2009 SY.
- From FY 2010 through FY 2019, we have spent an average of \$834,296 in Operational funding to support Transportation.
 - The highest deficit was in FY 17, with \$1,718,539 in operational support.
- The purpose of the SEG is to ensure that district funding is equal across the state.



Funding

16/17 Allocation -
\$2,559,015

Funding Shortfall -
\$1,718,539

Average Student Count

8207

Avg Miles Driven

1,083,417

17/18 Allocation -
\$3,204,235

Funding Shortfall -
\$836,101

Average Student Count

7711.5

Avg Miles Driven

1,033,025

18/19 Allocation -
\$3,003,695

Funding Shortfall -
\$1,300,453

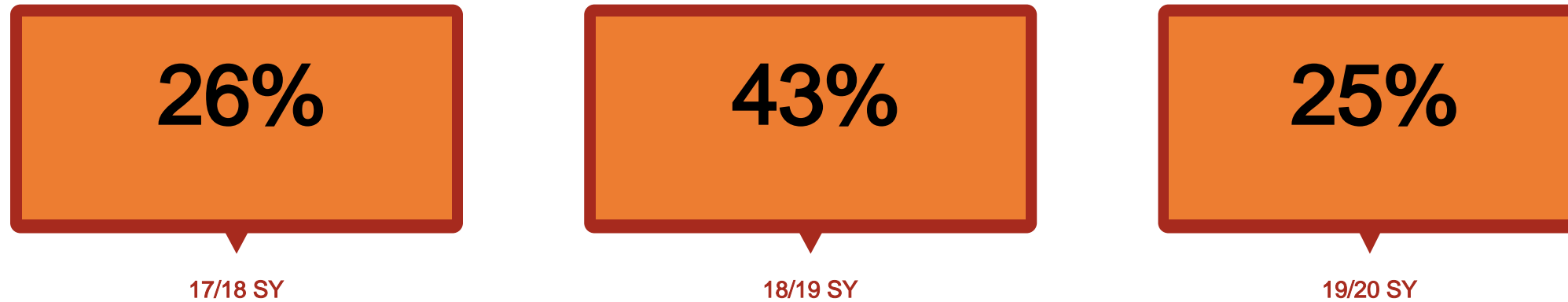
Average Student Count

7588.5

Avg Miles Driven

980,049

Funding Shortfall by Percentages



Complications

Scheduling, Budget, etc.



Budget Concerns

- Every dollar we lose in transportation comes directly out of the classroom.
- We spent \$7.2M of bond funds on the building of our Transportation Depot.
 - The cost for our lease prior to completion of the depot was roughly \$90,000 per year.



Scheduling Concerns

- Transportation dictates important decisions that should be based, rather, on what is best for students:
 - Start and release times
 - Research show that later start times can have a positive impact on student success. We are unable to even consider adjusting our start times
 - Extended Learning capabilities
 - The PED allows flexibility in adding instructional time throughout the week rather than having a longer school year. We are unable to consider adjusting the length of the school day for any level or school



Funding Obstacles

- There needs to be more flexibility when generating student counts.
 - Students participating in sports on the 80-/120 day can affect the count as students report for zero hour (before buses arrive) and have practice after school.
- We are supposed to get additional funding depending on how many dirt roads, but have not been given that information.
- Population density seems to be a problem with the formula, and the amount that is reduced appears to be the amount of our deficit.



Questions?

