



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Members, Board of Education  
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

RE: Transportation Audit

DATE: March 13, 2018

### ***General Information***

After the referendum passed, administration was charged with finding ways to cut expenditures. The process is ongoing, but regular education transportation is one of exploration. Special education routes were not explored because transportation is dictated by the IEP.

Currently, the District transports 535 elementary and 493 middle school regular education students daily. These counts can vary depending on the weather. Large buses are used to transport students. The District also transports students on a space available basis.

In 1997, the District established 14 hazardous crossings in an effort to offer transportation and get State reimbursement for transporting students that are less than 1 ½ mile from their school.

During the past few years, regular transportation costs were \$534,601 in FY16, \$539,681 in FY17 and \$405,315 so far in FY18. According to the Pupil Transportation Claim, the District's transportation reimbursement was \$13,946 in FY15, \$14,824 in FY16 and \$18,861 in FY17.

### ***Statutes and Policies***

There are statutes and policies that govern transportation at the state and at district level. Per Section 29-3 of the School Code, school district shall provide free transportation for pupils residing at a distance of one and one-half miles or more from any school to which they are assigned for attendance maintained within the district. Similarly, District Policy 4:110 Transportation states, "the District shall provide free transportation for any student in the District who resides: (1) at a distance of one and one-half miles or more from his or her assigned school, unless the School Board has certified to the Illinois State Board of Education that adequate public transportation is available, or (2) within one and one-half miles from his or her assigned school where walking to school or to a pick-up point or bus stop would constitute a serious hazard due to vehicular traffic or rail crossing, and adequate public transportation is not available. A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may file a petition with the Board requesting transportation due to the existence of a serious safety hazard."

Attached is the transportation audit report from Edulog Consulting. The report highlights ways that the district can save money in the area of transportation. The report addresses routing, mileage and hazards.

More information about transportation will be presented at the Board meeting on March 13, 2018. In addition, the Edulog consultant will be available, by phone, to answer any questions regarding his report. Finally, administration will make recommendations regarding transportation to prepare for the upcoming transportation RFP.