



**Board Meeting Date:** 8/20/2024

**Title:** To-and-From School Transportation Fees

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent; and Mert Woodard, Director, Finance & Operations

**Description:** As part of the fiscal year 2025 budget development process, the District administration was advised to consider the impact of assessing fees for to-and-from school transportation that is currently free of charge.

State law mandates that school districts offer free transportation to students living over 2 miles from school. Currently, the District exceeds this requirement by providing free transport to elementary students living 0.7 miles or more away and secondary students living over 1 mile away.

The following is the expected number of students receiving free transportation under District policy who would not qualify if the District adhered strictly to state statute **and** do not qualify for educational benefits:

<u>School</u>	<u>No. of Students Routed Within 0.7-2.0 or 1.0-2.0 Miles</u>	<u>Prior-Year Ridership</u>	<u>Adjusted Ridership</u>
Edina High School	392	0.38	149
South View Middle School	253	0.73	185
Valley View Middle School	264	0.72	190
Concord Elementary School	327	0.67	219
Cornelia Elementary	205	0.78	160
Countryside Elementary School	284	0.96	273
Highlands Elementary School	136	0.75	102
Creek Valley Elementary School	246	0.78	192
Normandale Elementary School	335	0.64	214
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,442</b>		<b>1,684</b>

Current Pay-For-Ride Fees per Policy 713 (Appendix I):

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Distance From School</u>	<u>Yearly Fee Per Student</u>
Elementary (K-5)	<0.7 miles	\$350.00
Secondary (6-12)	<1.0 miles	\$350.00

\*cap of \$525 per year per family

A survey has been sent to the families of students that would not qualify for no charge transportation were the District to adjust its policy to align with state statute. It is important to note that per state statute, if a district elects to charge for to-and-from school transportation, it must also ensure that no student is denied access to transportation due to an inability to pay. Those families have also been removed from the survey list. The heat map below represents the data from 856 respondents. The survey closes on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. A report on the full results of the survey will be shared with the School Board in September.

I would continue to use EPS transportation and pay \$350.00 per student with a maximum of \$525.00 per family.

	Yes	No	Total
I have students at the following grade levels (select all that apply): Elementary	47.1% (311)	52.9% (349)	
Middle School	49.2% (181)	50.8% (187)	
High School	38.7% (79)	61.3% (125)	
Total	46.3% (571)	53.7% (661)	

**Recommendation:** There is no recommended action.

**Desired Outcomes from the Board:** Discuss the District’s current policy and fees regarding to-and-from school transportation and the possibility of adjusting the “no charge” zone.

**Attachments:**

Policy 713 (specifically see Appendix I)