

COVID-19 Transportation Reimbursement FAQs

Q: Will districts be reimbursed for utilization of transportation staff to disinfect and sanitize school facilities?

A: No, per the newly promulgated Chapter 20 Emergency Rules, the duties must be associated with transportation. This may include disinfecting and sanitization of a transportation facility. If there are any duties in question contact the WDE for guidance.

Q: Our funding is reimbursed for this current year, FY2020, after July 1, which is then used for the next FY2021. This will precipitate an up to 3.5 month operational funding shortfall. Will the district have to pull that short fall out of the general fund to finish FY2021 since our funds that come to us do not have the actual full year in that reimbursement?

A: Operations and maintenance will be reimbursed in the same manner it always has. Work with your business manager to find ways to cash flow for next year's budget.

Q: What should districts do about the pupil transportation routes and ridership snapshot that was to be taken in April during WYTOPP testing which has been cancelled?

A: The snapshot date will now be any day a district can determine ridership during the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year. WDE has received confirmation from the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services that the annual collection of fly-by data has been cancelled due to COVID-19 so this information won't be required in the collection.

Q: How will districts pay both their contracted and hourly staff?

A: In the event a school district makes the decision to pay hourly and contract employees a form of paid leave during the time of the pandemic, associated costs for transportation and special education staff would be considered reimbursable

in the funding model on the Transportation Reimbursement and the Special Education Reimbursement, respectively. This is a local school district decision. Benefits (paid leave) are reimbursable as long as they are offered to all staff and aren't funded through another funding source.

Q: If a CDL driver does not work for an extended period of time, would pre-employment testing be required prior to returning to duties?

A: If the driver is considered to be an employee of the company during the extended period, a pre-employment test would not be required so long as the driver has been included in the company's random testing program during the layoff period. However, if the driver was not considered to be an employee of the company at any point during the layoff period, or was not covered by a program, or was not covered for more than 30 days, then a pre-employment test would be required.

Q: What do third party CDL testers need to be doing to facilitate new driver testing?

A: Remain in contact with your local DOT affiliate as well as pertinent testing clinics to determine if there are viable testing options.

Q: Should school bus drivers activate their 8 way flashers when delivering meals or instructional materials to students?

A: Wyoming Statute 31-5-507 stipulates that the 8 way flashers be activated when loading or discharging students at a designated school bus loading area. Depending on your drop-off procedural policy, you may want to confer with your local police department or sheriff's office (depending on the jurisdiction) to get their guidance as they will be the entity interpreting and enforcing the statute.

Q: May districts purchase fuel in bulk for storage either on or offsite and still be reimbursed by the state?

A: A district may be reimbursed for the purchase of fuel to be stored on or offsite given the proper documentation can be provided for purchase and utilization under reimbursable guidelines.