

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 6/29/2007

LRB Number	07-2471/1	Introduction Number	AB-0398	Estimate Type	Original
Description Transportation of pupils to private schools					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, a school board is required to transport pupils to private school under certain conditions. If the estimated cost of transporting a pupil to a private school is more than 1.5 times the school district's average cost per pupil for regular bus transportation in the prior year, the school board may fulfill its obligation to transport the pupil by offering to contract with the pupil's parent or guardian to provide the transportation. AB 398 provides that, if two or more pupils reside in the same household and attend the same private school, the contract may, at the discretion of the school board, provide for a total annual payment for all of the pupils who attend the same school instead of for each of the pupils.

State: AB 398 has no fiscal effect on the DPI.

Local: If a school board that currently provides transportation for private school students using parent contracts chooses to provide compensation based on household transported to the private school versus per pupil transported to the school, the school district will not be paying out as much in parent transportation contracts. A school district that formerly claimed aid on behalf of 2 private school students transported by parent contract would still claim 2 students transported, but pay only one cost/pupil figure. The aid payment to the district would still be based on 2 students transported, but the payment from the district to the parent would be cut in half. The district could then redistribute the remaining transportation categorical aid to other areas of the district's transportation budget. Since parent contracts are between the district and the parent, DPI does not have records of how many parent contracts exist or how many children are transported via this method (school districts report the number of private school students they transport for categorical aid purposes on the annual report, but they do not indicate the method of transportation, i.e. school bus, other vehicle or parent contract.). Therefore, DPI is not able to determine the amount of money that could be freed up in districts' transportation budgets under AB 398.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications