

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 3/9/2010

LRB Number	09-4326/1	Introduction Number	AB-0809	Estimate Type	Original
Description Transportation of private school pupils					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires a school district to provide transportation for private school pupils only during the school term of the public school. It also allows the public school district to make only one payment for a parent contract to transport all pupils from the household to the same private school instead of making a payment for each of the pupils.

State Fiscal Effect: There will be no state fiscal effect. DPI will still distribute pupil transportation aid based on the number of pupils transported in the previous year, times the flat amount per pupil in each distance category.

Local Fiscal Effect: School districts could see a decrease in their costs for transportation under AB 809. In the bill, districts would be required to transport private school pupils only during the school term of the public school. Currently if the district has to provide transportation to private school pupils for days outside of the public school term, it results in costs to the district for the bus, fuel, driver, etc. that would otherwise not be necessary. Depending on the number of buses necessary and the number of days the buses are transporting only the private school pupils, costs would vary.

School districts can decide to fulfill their obligation to transport certain pupils by contracting with the parent or guardian. Under AB 809, districts would not be required to pay the parent per pupil that is transported, but instead, with one payment for all pupils in the same household being transported to the same private school. Again, school districts could see a reduction in their costs. It is unclear how many situations are currently occurring where a parent takes various children from the same home to the same private school and collects more than one payment. The fiscal effect is indeterminate.

School districts may have an increase in costs if the notification date is pushed back until July 15 for private schools to inform the school district of all pupils eligible for transportation. If districts have transportation staff with 12 month contracts, there will likely be no fiscal effect. However, for transportation staff that use the time from May 15 until the end of the school year to plan routes, determine staffing needs, prepare pupil notifications, etc., having the deadline pushed back by two months will result in a much shorter time frame to manage this workload. If transportation staff typically work only 10 months, they may need to change their schedules and potentially work more hours to complete preparation work. Such changes may result in increased costs to the district.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications