

**School Bus Modifications**  
 2025 GENERAL SESSION  
 STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Nate Blouin**  
 House Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses provisions related to transportation for students.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- addresses which students are eligible for state-supported transportation; and
- clarifies how the distance from a school is measured.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53F-2-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 507

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53F-2-403** is amended to read:

**53F-2-403 . Eligibility for state-supported transportation -- Approved bus routes.**

(1) A student eligible for state-supported transportation means:

(a) a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 6 who lives at least 1-1/2 miles from school;

(b) a student enrolled in grades 7 through 12 who lives at least two miles from school;

and

(c) without reference to distance from school:

(i) a student enrolled in a special program offered by a school district and approved

by the state board for trainable, motor, multiple-disability, or other students with

severe disabilities who are incapable of walking to school or where it is unsafe for

students to walk because of their disabling condition[, without reference to

- 31 ~~distance from school.] ; and~~
- 32 (ii) a student that is economically disadvantaged as that term is defined in Section
- 33 35A-15-102.
- 34 (2)(a) The distance that a student lives from school is determined by measuring from the
- 35 entrance of the school to the further of:
- 36 (i) the entrance to the student's home; or
- 37 (ii) if the student lives in a housing community that uses a leasing office, the furthest
- 38 residence in the student's housing community from the school.
- 39 (b) The distance described in Subsection (2)(a) shall be measured by a public route open
- 40 to public use.
- 41 ~~[(2)] (3)~~ If a school district implements double sessions as an alternative to new building
- 42 construction, with the approval of the state board, those affected elementary school
- 43 students residing less than 1-1/2 miles from school may be transported one way to or
- 44 from school because of safety factors relating to darkness or other hazardous conditions
- 45 as determined by the local school board.
- 46 ~~[(3)] (4)(a)~~ The state board shall distribute transportation money to school districts based
- 47 on:
- 48 (i) an allowance per mile for approved bus routes;
- 49 (ii) an allowance per hour for approved bus routes; and
- 50 (iii) a minimum allocation for each school district eligible for transportation funding.
- 51 ~~(b)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b)(ii), the]~~ The state board shall
- 52 distribute appropriated transportation funds based on the prior year's eligible
- 53 transportation costs as legally reported under Subsection 53F-2-402(3).
- 54 ~~[(ii) The state board shall distribute state appropriations for transportation for fiscal~~
- 55 ~~years 2021 and 2022 using fiscal year 2019 eligible transportation costs described~~
- 56 ~~in Subsection 53F-2-402(3).]~~
- 57 (c) The state board shall annually review the allowance per mile and the allowance per
- 58 hour and adjust the allowances to reflect current economic conditions.
- 59 ~~[(4)] (5)(a)~~ Approved bus routes for funding purposes shall be determined on fall data
- 60 collected by October 1.
- 61 (b) Approved route funding shall be determined on the basis of the most efficient and
- 62 economic routes.
- 63 ~~[(5)] (6)~~ A local school board may provide for the transportation of students regardless of
- 64 the distance from school, from general funds of the school district.

65           Section 2. **Effective Date.**

66    This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.