



CHANGES IN FUNDING FORMULA and TR-1 FORM FOR SCHOOL BUS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

The 2003 Montana State Legislature passed Senate Bill 424, which includes language that does a number of things for pupil transportation. First of all, and probably most importantly, it simplified the very complex funding formula by eliminating the weighted ridership and assigning a set mileage rate based on the size of the bus (see below). Eliminating the weighted ridership will eliminate the November High School Rider Count. Mileage rates will no longer be based on the number of kids riding the bus. Districts will continue to list kids that ride each bus on the TR-2 and report those students to the OPI on the TR-1 (Route Form) as usual, however the mileage rate won't be based on that information.

Beginning on July 1, 2003, bus mileage reimbursement will be based on the following:

<u>School Bus Capacity</u>	<u>Rate Per Mile</u>
Non-bus Mileage	\$0.50
Up to 49 Passenger	\$0.95
50 – 59 Passenger	\$1.15
60 – 69 Passenger	\$1.36
70 – 79 Passenger	\$1.57
80 or more Passenger	\$1.80

This change results in an increase of \$1.7 million in state transportation aid funding and \$1.7 million in county transportation aid funding. The increase in state transportation funding comes from funding that, in the past, was appropriated to the transportation block grant. The state will reduce the district transportation fund school block grants (HB124) by half starting in 2003-04 to fund the mileage rate increases. The updated Transportation Budgeting Spreadsheet and updated blank TR-1 (Bus Route Form) are posted on the web at the following links:

TR-1 (Access with your login and password): <https://data.opi.mt.gov/Transportation/Login.aspx>

Transportation Budgeting Spreadsheet:
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/schoolfinance/Budget/11TransBudgetWrkSht.xls>
 (Right click on this link and "save target as".)

For assistance, contact Donell Rosenthal at drosenthal@mt.gov or call 406-444-3024.