

Options for Pupil Transportation in the Arkansas Funding Model

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Prepared for the
Senate and House Adequacy Study
Oversight Committee

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Purpose of Pupil Transportation

- Home to school distance too great
- Safety hazards
 - No sidewalks
 - Train tracks
 - Busy street crossings
- Need to shift students due to overcrowding
- Desegregation
- Extra curricular activities
- Field trips



Why Transportation is Different

- District Characterizes^{stics}
 - Population density
 - District size
 - Geographic characteristics
 - Travel distances
 - Road quality
 - Natural barriers (mountains, rivers, etc.)
- Per pupil expenditures vary for legitimate reasons and must be accommodated to insure equity in the regular education program



Current Arkansas Policy

- **No specific transportation funding since 1995**
- **Limited data on which to base an allocation formula**
- **Currently transportation is part of the foundation amount**



Pupil Transportation in Arkansas

- **Total 2004-05 expenditures \$122.3 million**
- **Average \$269 per pupil**
 - **Minimum \$63 per pupil**
 - **Maximum \$658 per pupil**
- **District size average is 206 sq. miles**
 - **Minimum is less than one sq. mile**
 - **Maximum is 900 sq. miles**



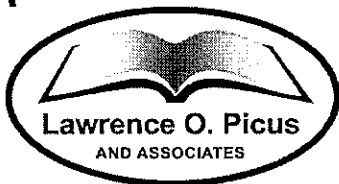
Pupil Transportation in Arkansas

- **Student population density per sq. mile**
 - **Average 17.41**
 - **Minimum 0.82**
 - **Maximum 573.94**



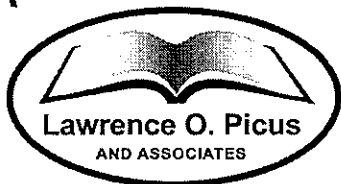
Data Available in Arkansas

- **Transportation Expenditures**
- **Square Miles in District**



Data Needed to Develop a Funding Formula

- **Student population density (can be computed with extant data)**
- **Number of students transported**
- **Number of miles driven**
- **Number of hours operated ?**
- **Bus Replacement Data**
 - **Age of existing busses**
 - **Life expectancy of existing busses**
 - **Replacement schedule (if one exists)**

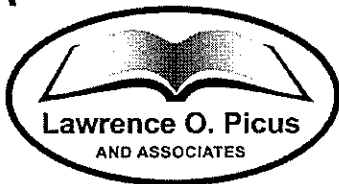


Recommendations

- For now include current transportation expenditures in funding model
- Collect better data on transportation operations
- Develop a funding formula based on:
 - Density
 - Mileage
 - Hours of operation
- Establish funds for bus replacement
- Move to separate Transportation from the general funding model
 - This could be done first by establishing a full reimbursement model as is done in other states (e.g. Wyoming)



Discussion with Committee



How to Contact Us

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