

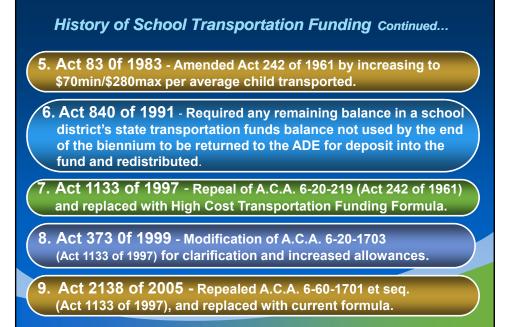
History of School Transportation Funding

1. Act 84 of 1947 - allowed school districts to incur bonded indebtedness for school buildings and equipment, including buses.

 Act 242 of 1961 - Established the State Transportation Aid Fund thru the State Board of Education for distribution of funds to public schools. \$20min/\$42max per average daily student transported.

3. Act 648 of 1975 - Amended Act 242 of 1961 by increasing to \$20min/\$90max per child transported.

4. Act 196 of 1979 - Amended Act 242 of 1961 by increasing to \$40min/\$120max per average child transported - specified K-12 included.



ARKANSAS K - 12 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Historically, what method of distribution was used?

<u>1961 to 1997</u> Average Child Transported [Riders]

<u>1991 to 1997</u> Transportation funds were "restricted" and returned if unused [Categorical?]

2005 to Present \$X per ADM [O & P temporary resolution] **Odden and Picus** The Arkansas Recalibration Report August 30, 2006

 Page 72: ... we have used existing 2004-05 transportation expenses by district inflated to 2007-08. This 2007-08 estimate averages \$286 per ADM, but varies considerably by district from a low of \$67 to a high of \$695 per pupil.

Continue... Odden and Picus

• Page 79: ... we recommend that the transportation figure be removed from the new "per pupil" amount and provided to districts as a separate grant, providing each district with the amount actually spent per pupil on transportation in 2004-05 inflated up to an appropriate figure for 2007-08 until the state creates a more standards- and research-based transportation funding formula.

Continue... Odden and Picus

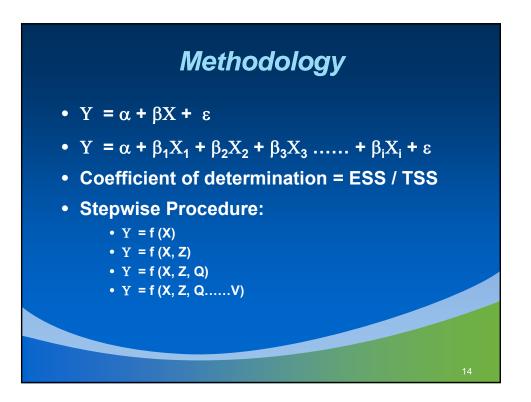
 Page 80: ... we recommend a transportation categorical program which would average \$286 per pupil in 2007-08, but based on district's actual transportation expenditures in 2004-05 inflated up to a 2007-08 base, AND to be replaced by a standards-based formula in the future.

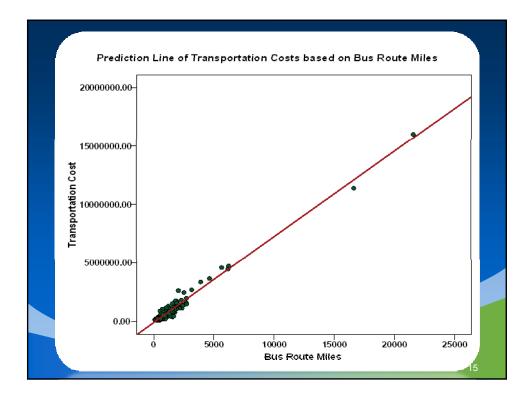
Act 624 of 2007

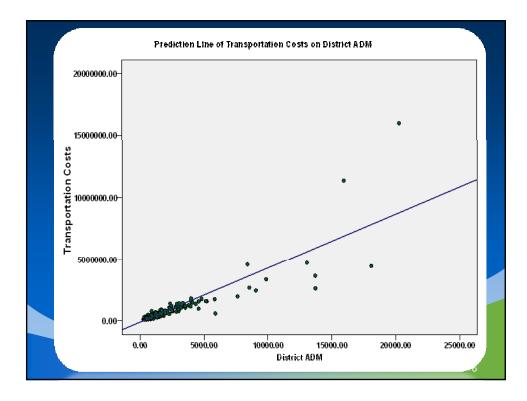
 A.C.A. § 10-3-317 (a) (1) The Department of Education shall provide the Bureau of Legislative Research with direct read and report only access to the department's data warehouse concerning school districts and related records.

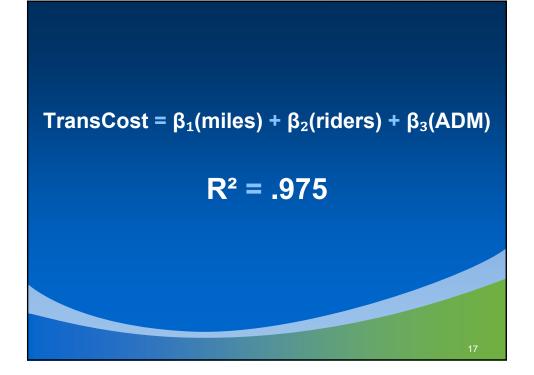
Transportation Variables

- Cost
- ADM
- District Area (square miles)
- Number of Students Transported
- Daily Linear Route Miles
- Number of Buses
- Ratios:
 - ADM / District Area
 - Number Transported / District Area
 - ADM / Miles









New Funding Method

Total Current Ark. School Districts = 239

New Distribution Method – No Offsets:

- Districts Receiving More Transportation Funding = 203
- Districts Receiving Less Transportation Funding =

New Distribution Method – Including Offsets:

- Districts Receiving More Transportation Funding = 150
- Districts Receiving Less Transportation Funding = 89

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New Funding Method

Advantages

- Provides better accuracy in the prediction and the distribution of Transportation Funding
- Complies with O & P prescribed funding structure
- Difficult to manipulate
- Categorical funding need not be restricted

Disadvantages

- Temporary harm to a few districts
- Alters a funding system blessed by the Court

Options

Do nothing -- continue to distribute transportation funding by ADM as a line – item in the Foundation Matrix

Pull \$309.90 out of the Matrix and create a Transportation Categorical

Leave \$127 in the Matrix as Foundation Transportation and remove the remainder of the funding to create a partial Transportation Categorical due to higher cost

Continue to treat the three school districts in Pulaski County differently until the Desegregation issues are resolved

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