

**State of Alaska  
FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Education and Early Development  
Pupil Transportation  
BRU/Component Budget Summary**

## **BRU/Component: Pupil Transportation**

**(There is only one component in this BRU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate BRU section.)**

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### **Component Mission**

To reimburse school districts for qualifying transportation costs in a timely manner.

### **Component Services Provided**

Pursuant to AS 14.09.010, the Department of Education & Early Development may provide for the transportation of pupils who reside a distance from established schools. Department of Education & Early Development regulations (4 AAC 27.060) provide that, subject to availability of funds, districts will be reimbursed for the cost of all approved regular routes, special education routes, other conveyance routes, and in-lieu-of agreements. 100% of the purchase price of approved district-operated school buses is also reimbursable, over a seven year period. 23 of the 47 school districts receiving reimbursement for pupil transportation services have contracted for transportation services to and from school with one or more private school bus operators. 12 districts run district-operated fleets and 7 districts run a combination of district owned and contracted fleets. 5 districts reimburse parent's in-lieu of providing transportation. The majority of those contracts have a provision for a cost of living allowance (COLA) to be added to the daily rate per bus or route in subsequent years of a multi-year contract. Changes in the total number of buses, routes and/or route miles affect reimbursement rates throughout the school year as student populations shift and school programs change.

### **Component Goals and Strategies**

- \* Review 100% of the Requests for Proposals (RFP) submitted by school districts.
- \* Issue reimbursement checks to school districts within 30 days of receipt of claim.
- \* Review district requests for additional reimbursement due to added buses and/or routes.

### **Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004**

Continuing to find cost-effective means of providing transportation services is a key issue for the department and for school districts. Ensuring student safety through bus driver training, school bus inspections, and drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers continues to be a key issue.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2002**

In FY02 distributed approximately \$49.2 million to 48 school districts transporting over 42,838 students to and from school daily.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 14.09  
4 AAC 27

**Pupil Transportation  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars in thousands*

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
<b>Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	206.0	206.0	206.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	49,202.0	53,727.8	42,982.2
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>49,408.0</b>	<b>53,933.8</b>	<b>43,188.2</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	49,408.0	53,933.8	43,188.2
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>49,408.0</b>	<b>53,933.8</b>	<b>43,188.2</b>

## Pupil Transportation

### Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

**Pro-Rate Reimbursements  
(-\$10,745.6 General Funds)**

The FY2003 funding has been reduced by 20% and the reimbursement of pupil transportation costs will be pro-rated to school districts at 80%.

### Summary of Component Budget Changes

#### From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2003 Authorized</b>	53,933.8	0.0	0.0	53,933.8
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>				
-Reduce FY03 funding by 20% and pro-rate to districts	-10,745.6	0.0	0.0	-10,745.6
<b>FY2004 Governor</b>	43,188.2	0.0	0.0	43,188.2