

HB 3014 (2023): Alternative Transportation Frequently Asked Questions

The 2023 HB 3014 added Alternative Transportation as a potential reimbursement under the State School Fund Transportation Grant.

[What is Alternative Transportation and why should I consider it?](#)

HB 3014 (2023) added a new category and eligible (with certain requirements) expenditure under the State School Fund Transportation Grant: Alternative Transportation. Alternative Transportation includes both active transportation and public transportation.

- **Active transportation** includes human-powered forms of transportation, such as walking or bicycling, when covered under a supplemental plan and/or waiver.
- **Public transportation** includes forms of transportation that are provided by a public entity, charge set fares to ride, and run on fixed routes that are available to the public.

[What are the requirements to claim Alternative Transportation expenditures under the Transportation Grant?](#)

- The school district must have a supplemental plan and/or waiver that includes the use of Alternative Transportation, and that has been approved by their local school board and by the State Board of Education. You can get started on this process by filling out the [Alternative Transportation Waiver and/or Supplemental Plan Request Form](#).
- The addition of Alternative Transportation must be projected to cost the same as or less than the school district's transportation without the addition of Alternative Transportation.
- Alternative transportation reimbursement of expenditures cannot exceed 5% of the school district's total Transportation Grant.
- Additional requirements for public transportation:
 - No other transportation options, including Active Transportation options, are suitable and sufficient for the students being served, and
 - They have made a good faith effort to recruit, hire, train, retain, and pay transportation positions at competitive wages consistent with collective bargaining agreements and were unable to hire a sufficient workforce to ensure timely and reliable service by a school bus.

[What is the difference between a supplemental plan & a waiver?](#)

In order for Alternative Transportation to be eligible for reimbursement, a supplemental plan and/or waiver must be approved by the State Board of Education.

- A **supplemental plan** is required when the school district plans to provide transportation for students within the walking boundary. This applies when elementary school students live within 1 mile of the school, and when secondary school students live within 1.5 miles of the school.
- A **waiver** is required when the school district is not able to provide sufficient transportation services to students who live outside the walking boundary.

[Can Alternative Transportation pay for our crossing guards?](#)

Alternative Transportation can only pay for crossing guards if they are included in an Active Transportation route. Including crossing guard positions that already exist is not an allowable expense.

[What if our alternative plan costs more than a regular route?](#)

As a requirement of HB 3014, the addition of Alternative Transportation must be projected to be equal to or less expensive than the school district's transportation services without adding Alternative Transportation.

[What if we can't find a driver for a route?](#)

In addition to certain other requirements, school districts that plan to include public transportation as part of Alternative Transportation to be claimed under their Transportation Grant, must additionally demonstrate that:

- No other transportation options, including Active Transportation options, are suitable and sufficient for the students being served, and
- They have made a good faith effort to recruit, hire, train, retain, and pay transportation positions at competitive wages consistent with collective bargaining agreements and were unable to hire a sufficient workforce to ensure timely and reliable service by a school bus.

[If we have a grant through Safe Routes to pay parents a stipend, can we pay an alternative route coordinator with HB 3014 funds?](#)

An alternative route coordinator would be an allowable expense under HB 3014.

[If we have a dangerous roadway crossing where we currently have a bus route, can we get a crossing guard for walking instead of a bus?](#)

Paying a crossing guard for an active transportation route is an allowable expense. A supplemental plan would be needed but not a waiver.

We are concerned with cap on alternative transportation expenses; our historical precedent for public transit passes account for between 4-6% of our transportation expenses. Would this prevent us from implementing additional alternative transportation (e.g., biking bus)?

OAR 581-024-0040(13)(f) speaks to this:

“Notwithstanding subsections (13)(a-e) of this section, a school district that, prior to the effective date of July 1, 2024, had been receiving reimbursement for costs incurred in providing transit passes under a supplemental plan or a waiver shall continue to receive reimbursement under the terms and conditions the school district was receiving reimbursement prior to the effective date of July 1, 2024 unless the State Board of Education and the school district agree otherwise.”

Any new supplemental plans or waivers will need to follow the updated statute and rules. However, supplemental plans and/or waivers that were already in place prior to July 1, 2024 may continue to operate as is.