



Motor Carrier Attachment

LLB Management and Performance Review Page 187

Monaville, Texas December 17, 2021

HWY22FH002

(2 Pages)

Transportation funding for regular program students is allotted using the preceding school year's linear density and cost per mile. The Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 42.155, defines regular program students as students who reside two or more miles from their school of regular attendance. Cost per mile is based on data submitted in the School Transportation Route Services Report and the School Transportation Operations Report. Linear density of bus routes is determined based on the number of regular riders carried per mile of regular bus routes during the school year. The amount of state funding that a district receives for transportation is based on the lower of the actual cost per mile based on expenditures and total mileage, or the maximum amount determined in one of the seven density groupings established by TEA. **Figure 11–3** shows the linear density groups and maximum allotment per mile used by TEA beginning in school year 2010–11.

FIGURE 11–3
TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY TRANSPORTATION LINEAR
DENSITY GROUPS
SCHOOL YEAR 2010–11

LINEAR DENSITY GROUP	MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT PER MILE
2.40 and above	\$1.43
1.65 to 2.399	\$1.25
1.15 to 1.649	\$1.11
0.90 to 1.149	\$0.97
0.65 to 0.899	\$0.88
0.40 to 0.649	\$0.79
Up to 0.399	\$0.68

SOURCE: Texas Education Agency, School Transportation Allotment Handbook, Effective School Year 2010–11.

In school year 2013–14, Hempstead ISD's cost per mile was \$4.57 for regular program students, and its linear density was 1.30. Given that per-mile costs were greater than the maximum allotment rate, the district was allotted \$1.11 per mile for regular program riders. Based on the calculated annual mileage of 87,745 for regular service and the linear density rate allotment of \$1.11, the district received an allotment of \$97,397 in school year 2013–14.

FINDINGS

- ◆ Hempstead ISD does not have a method to manage bus driver absences.
- ◆ Hempstead ISD lacks consistent processes to promote effective communication among transportation stakeholders.
- ◆ Hempstead ISD's fleet management, procurement, and replacement strategy does not ensure the district maintains an appropriately sized fleet for its transportation needs.
- ◆ Hempstead ISD's Transportation Department lacks written policies and procedures to ensure effective and efficient operations.
- ◆ Hempstead ISD does not maximize opportunities to inform and prepare students, parents, and staff for school bus emergency situations.
- ◆ Hempstead ISD lacks a centralized records management process to consistently document and track data related to maintenance and repairs, fleet management, accident reports, and student information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ **Recommendation 62: Establish two driver positions to serve as on-call substitutes, and cross-train support service staff to maintain an available pool of spare drivers.**
- ◆ **Recommendation 63: Develop and implement a communications plan for the district's Transportation Department that includes access to an updated radio system and protocols for dispatch procedures.**
- ◆ **Recommendation 64: Eliminate the district's reserved use of trip buses and revise the procurement and replacement strategy.**
- ◆ **Recommendation 65: Develop district policies and procedures for transportation staff, students, and other stakeholder departments.**