

September 26, 2011
SREB Summary

I consulted state legislative staff and school transportation directors, listed on the website of the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, www.nasdpts.org, from SREB states in late 2010. Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas did not provide a response to the survey.

When considering the maximum amount of time for a one-way trip to or from school for a student on a school bus, I found that half of the SREB states do not have student transportation time limits. On the other hand, six SREB states require time or mileage limits for transporting students. Those six states are Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia.

In most states, school principals review school bus routes annually to ensure that students are riding for as little time as possible and that bus drivers are using the most efficient routes. Of the six states with ride time limits, four outline time limits in state statutes. Florida implements rider time limits through a state Board of Education Rule and Kentucky utilizes state Board approved local policies to enforce ride time limits.

In ten SREB states, transportation funding is determined based on a specific transportation formula calculated at the state level. While, three states — Alabama, Mississippi and North Carolina — appropriate state funds to local districts based on various circumstances, such as the number of buses in a school district's fleet or the amount of funds distributed the previous year. Transportation funding amounts vary based on the number of students in each school district and how many of those students are actual bus riders, as well as whether the student has special needs.

You will find two tables below that further detail student transportation policies and funding in SREB states. I hope this information is useful and is an appropriate response to your inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further assistance on this topic.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

State	Maximum One-Way Ride Time for Students	State Statute or Board Rule
Alabama	No limits	N/A
Arkansas	No limits	N/A
Delaware	No limits	N/A
Florida	Elementary – 50 minutes Secondary- 1 hour	Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-3.0171(6)(c)
Georgia	<i>No limits</i>	<i>Local Policy</i>
Kentucky	About an hour	Local Policy with State BOE approval
Louisiana	<i>No response</i>	<i>No State Policy</i>
Maryland	No limits	N/A
Mississippi	<i>30 miles</i>	<i>§37-15-29(3)</i>
North Carolina	No limits	N/A
Oklahoma	No limits	N/A
South Carolina	90 minutes	§59-67-105
Tennessee	90 minutes	§49-6-2105
Texas	<i>No response</i>	<i>No State Policy</i>
Virginia	No limits	N/A
West Virginia	Elementary – 30 minutes Middle – 45 minutes High School – 60 minutes	§18-2E-5d

Italicized responses – State did not respond; consulted state statutes to determine response.
 N/A – Not Applicable.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

State	How funded?	Total State Funds	Per Pupil
Alabama	State Appropriation	FY 2010 - \$277.4 million FY 2011 - \$278.1 million	\$373 per student or \$738 per transported student
Arkansas	No funding	N/A	N/A
Delaware	Formula	FY 2010 - \$87.8 million	FY 2009 - \$806 on average
Florida	Formula	FY 2010 - \$428.9 million FY 2011 - \$430.7 million	FY 2010 - \$364/student and \$1,756/student with special needs FY 2011 - \$366/student and \$1,763/student with special needs
Georgia	<i>No response</i>		
Kentucky	Formula	FY 2010 to 2012 - \$214.7 million	\$100 to \$550 depending on the district
Louisiana	<i>No response</i>		
Maryland	Formula	FY 2010 - \$241.6 million FY 2011 - \$244.4 million	Approximately \$300
Mississippi	<i>State Appropriation</i>		
North Carolina	State Appropriation	FY 2010 - \$441 million	N/A
Oklahoma	Formula	Not Available	Not Available
South Carolina	Formula	FY 2010 - \$129.6 million FY 2011 - \$114 million	FY 2010 - \$183.12 FY 2011 - \$186.21
Tennessee	Formula	FY 2010 - \$258.6 million FY 2011 - \$260.9 million	FY 2010 - \$136.63 FY 2011 - \$137.62
Texas	<i>Formula</i>		
Virginia	Formula	FY 2010 - \$338.9 million FY 2011 - \$369.9 million	N/A
West Virginia	Formula	FY 2010 - \$71.4 million FY 2011 - \$70.8 million	N/A

Italicized responses – State did not respond but I looked through state code for an answer.

Not Available – States response to inquiry was not available by June 25th.

N/A – Not Applicable.