



# Implementation of the New Student Transportation Funding System

## Summary

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is required to provide the Washington State Legislature with quarterly updates on the progress of the implementation of the new student transportation funding system referred to as STARS (Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System). Prior status reports are available on OSPI's website at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/LegisGov/Reports.aspx>.

### Enabling legislation

**RCW 28A.160.1921 (2)**

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.160.1921>

The initial STARS report by school districts was due October 31, 2011, and was an overwhelming success.

## Background

The 2010 Washington State Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 2776, which set the implementation date for STARS as September 1, 2011. During September, over 23 workshops and numerous individual school district training sessions were conducted throughout the state by the Regional Transportation Coordinators, specifically targeting how to conduct the student count, the use of the STARS web interface for reporting the results and other elements of the reporting requirements. Staff from the State Auditor's Office attended at least one of these workshops. The *General Instructions for Data Collection* and the *Detailed Guidance for Data Collection* are available on the OSPI website, under "STARS Reference Material" at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/transportation/STARS/default.aspx>.

The overwhelming majority of school districts successfully completed the report on time. The few exceptions were primarily districts using routing software with less than optimal customer support. The results of the fall report are available on OSPI's website on the STARS page referenced above, under "Quarterly Reports" and "Annual Reports." The regional transportation coordinators are still contacting district staff to resolve identified concerns on submitted data.

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