



Public Schools of North Carolina

PRC 056 – Transportation Allotment Policy

August 2020 SBE Meeting

Kevin Harrison

Section Chief, Transportation Services

Existing Allotment Policy

- Permits use of funds for the purpose of transporting students to, from, and between schools for their instructional program
- Requires other programs to reimburse PRC 056 for other allowed uses of school buses
 - Remediation
 - Federal Programs
 - Pre-K
 - School Field Trips
 - Emergency Management



The Issue – COVID 19

- Where transportation between home and school is not occurring, LEAs wish to innovate to support students
 - Delivery/Pickup of Instructional Materials
 - Transportation to Small Group Instruction
 - Transportation to Supervised Learning Labs
 - Delivery of Meals to Students in Remote Learning
- These purposes are permitted under Statute, but an LEA cannot expend PRC 056 funds for these purposes
- LEAs with the least local resources may abandon these innovative ideas and furlough staff or use staff less effectively than desired



The Issue in Numbers – 73 LEAs Responding

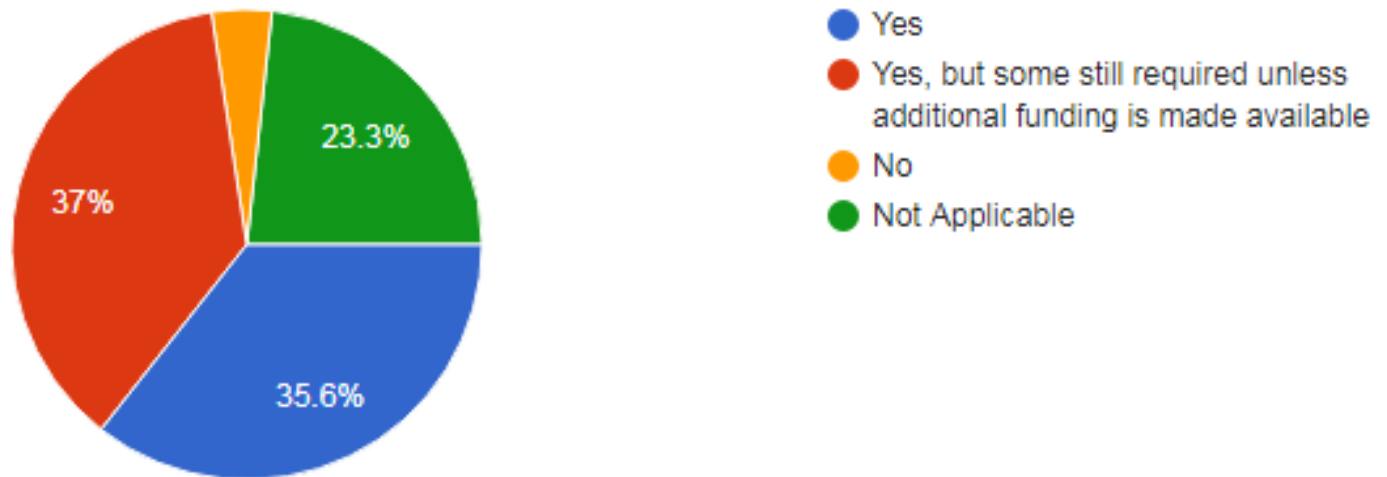
- 8.2% have already issued Furloughs or RIFs for School Nutrition or Transportation Staff
- Only 22 out of 73 indicate they are not considering or planning to do so



The Issue in Numbers – 73 LEAs Responding

If any furloughs or RIFs have occurred, are planned, or are under consideration, would flexibility in the use of PRC 056 funds permit these staff to remain employed to serve the students' needs?

73 responses



Potential Additional Funds

- Initially \$18m was requested based on a Summer Nutrition Program Survey
- In the more recent survey:
 - Wide variance
 - \$0 per day
 - Up to many times their daily operating budget
- Review of figures is on-going
 - Most LEAs likely under \$1000 per instructional day



Reported Uses if Granted Flexibility

Potential Use	Flexibility Only	Flexibility and Additional Funding
Transportation of School Nutrition to Students not in the Buildings	82.2%	90.4%
Using School Buses for Daytime WiFi Access Points	53.4%	61.6%
Transp./Distribution of Instructional Materials/Equipment to Support Remote Instruction	68.5%	79.5%
Transportation to Supervised Learning Labs (not led by instructional staff)	24.7%	27.4%
Transportation to Small Group Instruction AKA Pods (instructional-staff led)	21.9%	26.0%
* Transportation of Most EC Students Daily (Even with Plan B capacity restrictions)	72.6%	75.3%



The Objective

- Recognize the special circumstances
- Allow the LEAs to expend PRC 056 funds to run school buses for expanded purposes
 - Purposes which support the instructional programs of the schools; AND
 - Purposes which support the nutritional needs of students



Option 1:

- Allow for PRC 056 funds to be used for these purposes during a declared state of emergency

PRC 056 Special Provision:

“8) Notwithstanding the purpose and other special provisions of PRC 056, PRC 056 funds may also be used to support yellow school bus operations for purposes which support students’ nutrition or instruction in any state of disaster or local state of emergency declared under 166A of the General Statutes”



Option 2:

- Allow for PRC 056 funds to be used for these purposes during this emergency only

PRC 056 Special Provision:

“8) Notwithstanding the purpose and other special provisions of PRC 056, PRC 056 funds may also be used to support yellow school bus operations for purposes which support students’ nutrition or instruction until executive order 116, declaring a state of emergency to respond to COVID-19, is rescinded.”



Option 3:

- Allow for PRC 056 transportation funds to be used as the LEA sees fit within any permitted operation of school buses

PRC 056 Special Provision:

“8) Notwithstanding the purpose and other special provisions of PRC 056, PRC 056 funds may also be used to support yellow school bus operations for any permitted use of school buses under 115C-242 until executive order 116, declaring a state of emergency to respond to COVID-19, is rescinded.”



Flexibility Doesn't Alleviate Budget Responsibility

- Part of G.S. 115C-242 indicates:

“Local boards of education shall determine that funds are available to such boards for the transportation of children to and from the school to which they are assigned for the entire school year before authorizing the use and operation of school buses for other services deemed necessary to serve the instructional program of the schools.”

