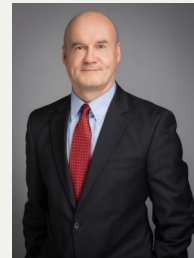


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**LEGAL ALERT****Full Transportation Reimbursement Potentially Available for “Hybrid” Learning**

Bus Transportation. The Illinois State Board of Education has issued an updated “Frequently Asked Questions” guidance on school transportation reimbursement. The FAQ clarifies that ISBE will provide reimbursement based on school district expenditures which can include expenses incurred during limited or full school closures. ISBE indicates that school districts can agree with their bus contractors to continue transportation payments so bus personnel (including bus monitors and drivers), can continue to be paid. The FAQ clarifies that, even where one or more days of the week are remote learning and no or limited transportation is provided, school districts that choose to negotiate and execute a contract amendment with their bus contractors to make payments to ensure transportation personnel will be paid in full will be reimbursed by the state for those expenditures in reliance on the following statutory authority:

“During a gubernatorial declaration of a disaster under Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act [20 ILCS 3305], to ensure the continuity of education, ... all transportation costs incurred that are beyond transporting students, such as costs paid by a local education agency for all employees related to the provision of transportation or a transportation provider under a written agreement, regardless of any service that may be provided, or costs related to the distribution of food, distribution and pick-up of student assignments and work, and use of vehicles to provide wi-fi and other similar costs, shall be allowable and reimbursed by the formula under Section 29-5 of the School Code.”
TRANSPORTATION FAQ, Illinois State Board of Education, p. 2 (Last Updated: October 15, 2020)

Parent Transportation. While districts are not required to reimburse any for their mileage costs if the parent chooses to transport their child to school due to health concerns with using bus

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transportation, a district can locally elect to offer such reimbursement, based on the development of a local written policy under 23 Il Admin 120.50(b)(1)(B).

COVID Protective Measures. The FAQ further clarifies that COVID related protective measures are not reimbursable, noting that bus monitors used to ensure that all students who get on the bus are self-certified, sit in assigned seats, keep masks on, and school personnel and expenditures for conducting symptom screenings and temperature checks of students who are loaded on a bus are not reimbursable transportation expenses.

A full copy of the updated ISBE FAQ on transportation is available at:

**[ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION
FAQs](#)**