



# Michigan Department of Education (Pupil Transportation)

MSBO April 23, 2024







### Introduction

#### **Troy Hansbarger**

School District Consultant/State Director of Pupil Transportation, MDE





# **Projects**



22l Transportation
Cost
Reimbursement

Section 74b Clean Bus Energy Grant School Transportation Vehicle Waivers

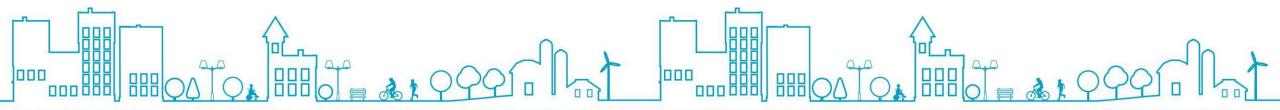
99ii and 99jj

**TAAM** 

New Partnerships

Upcoming Updates to forms and processes

Traffic Safety Initiatives



4/23/24

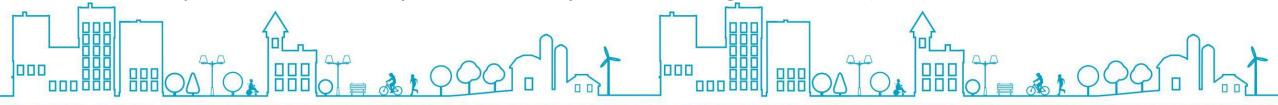


### 22l Team



#### Transportation Study Group

- Diane Golzynski- Deputy Superintendent, MDE
- Troy Hansbarger- School District Consultant, MDE
- Mac Dashney- Pupil transportation Operation and Management Institute; previously at MDE; former transportation director
- Ken Micklash- Project Consultant; previously at MDE; former superintendent
- Paul Bodiya and Chris Frank- Macomb ISD; APA
- 15 members appointed by MDE who served in an advisory capacity to the study group (superintendents, business managers, pupil transportation specialists, and rep. from transportation organizations)





# **Funding**



#### Section 22k

 The school transportation fund is created as a separate account within the state school aid fund for the purpose of supporting district transportation costs.





# Funding (cont.)



#### Section 221

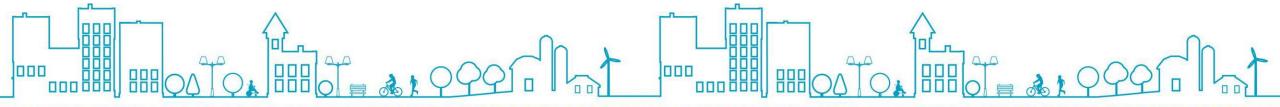
- Allocated for 2023-2024 only an amount not to exceed \$125,000,000 to districts for transportation costs
- Created a formula to distribute these funds
- Allocated for 2022-2023 only an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to an intermediate district for a study on district transportation costs. The intermediate district receiving funds under this subsection must submit a report to the department, the state budget director, the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on school aid, and the house and senate fiscal agencies by February 29, 2024, on the outcomes of the study under this



### **Data**



	Initial Payments (November '23)	Adjusted Payments (Spring '24)	Possible Future Changes
Quartiles	Riders per mile	Riders per square mile	Medians based on smaller groups
SE-4094	2022	2023	New data points?
Efficiency Standards	Not factored in	Not factored in	Linear approach and creating incentives for efficiency
Reimbursements	Lesser of quartile median cost/rider (predicted expenditure) or actual district cost per gen ed rider (proration)	Lesser of quartile median cost/rider (predicted expenditure) or actual district cost per gen ed rider (proration)	Accommodate for outliers





# **Eligibility**



- **Riders**
- Miles
- **Expenditures**
- Vehicles
- School Bus Inventories certified by June 30
- ESE-4159 Count Forms submitted to MDE by deadline





### **Review Process**

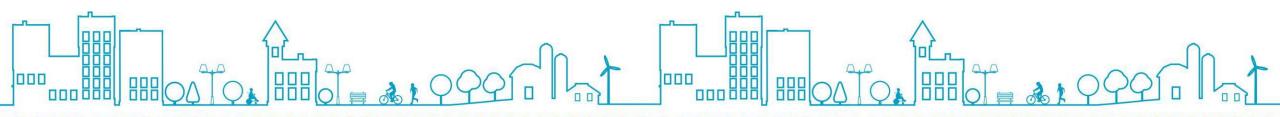


# I had transportation costs.... Why didn't I receive payment in November?

• Four pillars of eligibility (riders, miles, vehicles, expenditures) – SE-4094

#### ■ What can we do to ensure we are eligible in the spring?

- Accurate reporting on essential forms (SE-4094, SE-4159 RL/SL, and SE-4107
- MDE reviews SE-4094 reports. If errors, omissions, or inconsistencies in data the district will be notified, requiring corrective action to be eligible





# **Common Issues with Reporting**



- **Listing salary costs, but omitting FTE's**
- **Benefits outweighing salaries**
- Leaving out at least one of the four pillars (miles, riders, vehicles, expenditures)
- **Amortization amounts**
- Unallowable expenses
- Data outside of normal range (required justification)

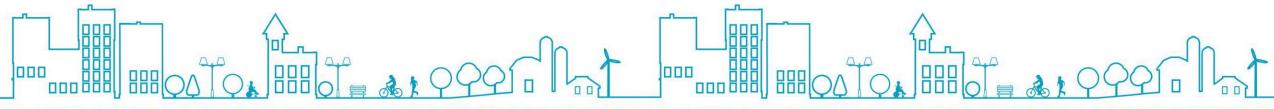




# **Best Practice for Ensuring Reimbursement**



- Accurate data reporting (use of the SE-4094 Interactive created by Mac Dashney, both at the local and ISD level)
- Confirm four pillars are reported
- Allowable expenses
- **Amortization requirements**
- Contracting out services? Hold companies accountable for spreading essential information
- Work collaboration (business/transportation; LEA/ISD)







# **Section 74b Clean Bus Energy Grant**







#### **Statute**



#### Section 388.1674b

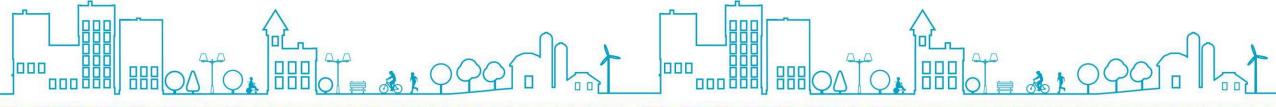
Current Status: application being built in NexSys

Highlights: \$125 million, prioritized and non-prioritized, minimum of 70%; up to 90% prioritized

Drawbacks: NexSys, Fund channel

Focus on easy of application: copy of information to the field; memo

Timeline: Go Live May 1 (target date); closes July 31, or until funds are exhausted





# School Transportation Vehicle Waivers





**Definition** 



Safety



Inventory/Tracking



**Cost Reporting** 



Collaboration with OSE

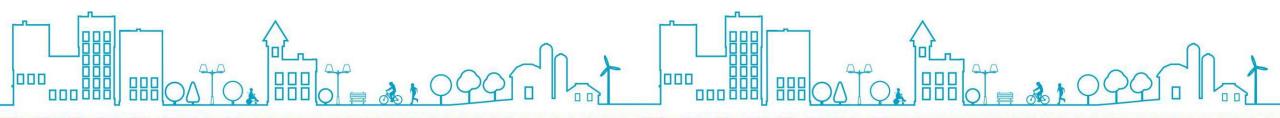




# School Transportation Vehicle Waiver (cont.)











#### 99ii and 99jj

\$250,000 each for Dearborn City School District and Wayne Westland Public Schools to pilot driver's education training programs on-site





4/23/24



# TAAM (Training Agency Association of Michigan)



- Section <u>257.1851</u> and <u>388.1674</u>
- Map of regions
- Major areas of focus: driver and student safety, compliance through accountability, professional development for improvement, innovation, quality driver education





# **New Partnerships**



Office of Special Education

Office of Highway Safety Planning/MSP

**Mileap** 

Macomb ISD

**EGLE** 

**MAPT** 

**TSA** 

**NASDPTS** 







## **Upcoming Updates**



- SE-4159 RL/SL Count Forms
- ESE-4107 School Bus Inventory (system, report/instructions/forms)
- ESE-4094 (forms, instructions, advisory workflow)
- **STV** Waivers
- **MDE** Website
- Possible Reimbursement Package to Field (timelines/calendar, necessary forms needed for proper reporting)
- = 22l Reimbursement Calculations





### **Contact**



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