

Questions Regarding Transporting Homeless Children

Enrolled in a Brick and Mortar Charter School

Situation:

- Parent(s)/guardian and child were permanently housed in District A; child was enrolled in a brick and mortar charter school.
- Parent(s)/guardian and child were displaced from their home in District A and either move to a *shelter* in District B or move to District B to live with a family (doubled-up).

Question:

Which school district is responsible for transporting the child to the charter school?

Answer:

- Either District A or District B must provide transportation. (*Distance, time of year, options available, the effects of a transfer, etc., should all be addressed.*)
- District A and District B must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the charter school. (*It is suggested that if the school district where the child is living is a school district that does not provide transportation services to students, it may be more practical for the other school district to arrange transportation.*)
- If the school districts cannot agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs, the responsibility and costs to transport must be shared equally by both school districts. When responsibility and costs are shared equally, the data should be reported in the eTran System as follows:
 - Each school district will report the transportation information for the student. It will show up as shared service.
 - The transporting school district will reduce the ‘Amount Paid Contractor’ by the amount invoiced to the other school district.

- The transporting school district will provide the other school district with the contractor and vehicle information as well as miles with/without as if that student were the only one on the bus.
- The other school district will report only the amount that they were billed for this student in the ‘Amount Paid Contractor’ box.

Rationale: If the student had been attending District A, the student would have the option of choosing District A to be the educating school district. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that District A should also be considered when determining responsibility for transportation.

References: BEC Charter School 24 P. S. §17-1701-A (Section 8).
(Transportation must be provided to students attending charter schools regardless of whether a school district provides transportation services to students attending the school district’s schools.)

BEC Education for Homeless Youth 42 U.S. C. §11431 (Section VI, Transportation).