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TO: BOCES District Superintendents
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FROM: Phyllis D. Morris



SUBJECT: Transportation Reimbursement During Periods of Program Closure

DATE: November 6, 2020

The Education Law authorizes State reimbursement for a share of the approved costs incurred in transporting students to and from school.

Because it is based on the costs for transporting pupils to and from school, the Education Law does not authorize the State to reimburse costs associated with keeping employees or contractors on standby, maintaining infrastructure, or other costs incurred when transportation services were not being provided to students during the period of school closures in Spring 2020, including costs associated with the use of school buses to deliver school meals, homework packets and wi-fi access. Therefore, school districts may not claim and receive State reimbursement for such costs.

Under current law, school districts may only submit claims for State reimbursement for actual costs incurred in physically transporting students to/from school.

The Board of Regents, as part of its 2021-22 budget and legislative initiatives, is advancing proposals to amend the Education Law to allow school districts to be reimbursed for costs incurred to keep transportation vendors and employees on standby between March 18, 2020 and May 1, 2020, for costs