



FY27 Open Enrollment Transportation Support Grant

Frequently asked Questions (FAQ) - Updated 4/7/26

A total of \$7,000,000 is available from the State General Fund, allocated for school year 2026-27. This allocation is currently one-time funding not to be expended after June 30, 2027. Any unobligated funds will revert to the State General Fund. These funds will be administered by NDE and awarded through a competitive process to eligible entities.

1. **What is the purpose of the grant?** *To support transportation services for students residing in the zone of attendance of a 1- or 2-star school who enroll in a program of open enrollment to attend a higher rated school outside of their zone of attendance **and** have attested to requiring financial assistance.*
2. **Can a pupil from a 1- or 2- star rated school request transportation services to attend a 3- star rated school?** *Yes.*
3. **Can a pupil who attends a 3- star school request transportation services to a 4- or 5- star rated school?** *No. This funding is directly tied to lower rated schools*
4. **Can charter schools apply for funding?** *No, charter schools as a whole may not apply for the funding, nor can an organization on their behalf. Charter schools already operate under a system of open enrollment and are not contemplated in AB533 or SB460. This is limited to school districts only.*

However, even though the proposed regulations do not list them as directly eligible, they could possibly participate indirectly by partnering with a school district or organization. In that case, the district or organization would submit the application and manage the grant, while the charter school could help provide transportation or support students in accessing it.

Here's how it would work:

- a) *The charter school partners with a district or organization that can apply for the grant. The agreement covers things like student data sharing, insurance, and following program rules.*
- b) *The district or organization submits the application, including plans for how transportation or reimbursements will be provided to students, how students are prioritized, and estimated costs.*
- c) *Once approved, the charter school can help provide transportation support for its students under the district's or organization's plan.*
- d) *Families requesting transportation must complete an affidavit or attestation confirming they have no other reliable way to get to school and demonstrate financial need.*

5. **Would data sharing agreements need to be in place prior to an organization applying for the grant?** *No – this is required prior to final approval of the subaward in July but is not required at the application stage.*
6. **Could a vendor submit an application (including all required information and a detailed plan for how their services would be used), and then, if a district chooses to move forward with those services, enter into a data sharing agreement at that point?** *Yes.*
7. **What are the expectations regarding data sharing requirements?** *These agreements are opt-in if the district is not otherwise providing travel/reimbursement.*
8. **For example, what types of data must be shared with an organization?** *Student name and contact information; the priority category of the student; school of attendance.*
9. **Additionally, if no data sharing agreement is in place, such as in cases where a school district is reimbursing families or using the funds to provide services through its existing fleet, how should Question 4 be addressed?** *I think they'd need to address FERPA security and probably provide a brief overview of the components they'd want on their side to establish in the agreement.*
10. **What information would a district need to provide NDE if a student was no longer attending the higher rated school, or no longer needed services?** *The Department will provide a reporting template/method for these instances. (waiting on template to share)*
11. **Where can a list of underperforming schools be found?** *You can find a list of under performing schools on the [Nevada Report Card](#) website.*
12. **Could a district request funding to operate a bus for one or two students, while maximizing route efficiency by transporting additional students who may not have a demonstrated financial need?** *I think that they could clearly cost allocate for the bus, yes. So, for example, if they ask for \$5k each for the two students (\$10k) and the yearly operations of the bus cost \$70k, they could use \$10k from this grant and \$60k from their regular transportation funds to provide a blended delivery system.*
13. **In order for LEA's to request funds for implementing the Open Enrollment Survey would time and effort reporting or tracking log of hours need to be submitted with request?** *Yes.*