



The Road Back

Restart and Recovery Plan for Education New Jersey Department of Education



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Governor

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Section: Policy and Funding

Guidance Regarding Aid In Lieu of Transportation Payments

N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 requires that, under certain conditions, school districts must provide transportation services to students who reside in the school district and attend a nonpublic school located in the State. In the event that a school district is unable to transport a nonpublic school student between home and school within a maximum expenditure per pupil amount (\$1,000 per pupil in the 2020-2021 school year), then the district is required to provide the student's parent or guardian with an aid in lieu of transportation (AIL) payment equal to that maximum. State Board of Education regulations provide for a similar payment to certain students enrolled in charter schools or in the interdistrict public school choice program.

As a result of the ongoing public health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools are providing instruction using either an all-remote format or a hybrid model, in which students receive in-person instruction on a limited number of days per week. Because some students are making fewer trips between home and school at this time, districts are [authorized to provide a reduced AIL payment](#) for eligible students in the current school year. Specifically, **districts may make AIL payments equal to the share of school days in which in-person instruction is provided to a student multiplied by \$1,000**. Such an adjustment must be applied to the payments made to the parents and guardians of eligible students who received instruction in an all-remote or hybrid format, including those who engaged in remote instruction when an in-person option was available. Examples of how a school district may adjust an AIL payment in the current school year are as follows:

- A school provided all-remote instruction for the first 30 days of the school year and converted to complete in-person instruction for the remainder of the year. Assuming a 180-day school year, a school district may provide an AIL payment of \$833 for the year (150 days of in-person instruction divided by 180 days in the school year equals 83.3 percent of the year consisting of in-person instruction. \$1,000 times 83.3% equals \$833).
- A school implemented a hybrid instructional model in which one group of students received in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesday, while a second group received in-person instruction on Thursdays and Fridays, with Wednesday being a day of remote instruction for all students. The school also allowed students to engage in all-remote



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instruction. Assuming these options are provided for the full school year, a district may provide AIL payments of \$400 for the school year to the parents and guardians who participated in the hybrid model, and no AIL payment for students engaged in the all-remote model for the school year.

Questions regarding this guidance should be addressed to student.trans@doe.nj.gov.