

## School Finance

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except those (teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses and speech pathologists) designated by state mandate using federal stimulus funds;

- Eliminate 75 staff positions through layoffs, attrition or retirement.

This action required the immediate reduction and/or elimination in services provided by the district. Teachers will no longer receive compensation for attending professional development training as they have in the past. However, this budget reduction saved nearly 48 jobs. A host of other budget cuts have been made. Examples of reductions include the number of instructional specialists for the elementary schools, custodial services and staffing positions typically added throughout the year to accommodate student enrollment growth.

The reduction in service that may have the greatest impact on the community is the change in student

transportation. The district will no longer provide transportation for students who live less than two miles from their assigned schools.

The state provides no reimbursement for students living within this two-mile limit and the district can no longer absorb this cost at the local level.

Last year, the state reimbursed CFISD \$6.4 million of approximately \$32 million spent on student transportation.

There are two exceptions where transportation will be provided for students living within the two-mile limit:

- 1) A student must cross or walk along side a hazardous roadway as defined in the district's hazardous declaration.
- 2) A student receives special education services and transportation is required.

Additional information regarding bus service eligibility is posted on the district website at [www.cfisd.net/dept2/transp/services.htm](http://www.cfisd.net/dept2/transp/services.htm).

Effective for the 2009-2010 school year, transportation will be available only to those students who live two miles or more from their assigned school. Also, students residing within two miles of their assigned school may have transportation services provided if they meet any of these conditions:

- (1) they must cross or walk along a hazardous roadway as defined in the district's hazardous declaration; or
- (2) if the student is receiving special education services and transportation is required.

The CFISD Board of Trustees defines hazardous traffic conditions as areas where no safe walk path is provided and a student must walk along or cross a freeway or expressway, an underpass, an overpass or bridge, a major traffic artery or other comparable condition the district has identified as hazardous.

The Hazardous Declaration can be viewed at [www.cfisd.net/dept2/transp/services.htm](http://www.cfisd.net/dept2/transp/services.htm).

## FAQ

**Q: Why did I not receive notification regarding the discontinuance of transportation service sooner?**

**A:** As soon as was practicable following the adoption of the 2009-2010 budget, the district began the process of determining which locations would be determined as ineligible to receive transportation services. This change in student service is a very complex and important issue to families, so it was essential for the transportation department to provide accurate information.

**Q: Where did the idea of a two-mile limit originate?**

**A:** The limit has been established by the Texas Education Agency for many years.

**Q: Why will some students living less than two miles from their school receive service?**

**A:** Exceptions to the two-mile limit are provided for locations subject to hazardous roadway conditions or if the student receives special education services which require transportation.

**Q: For the child-care facility that my child attends to be eligible for transportation service, does it have to be state recognized?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: My child's child-care facility is less than two miles from my child's school. Will it continue to receive transportation service?**

**A:** No, unless the child-care facility is subject to the hazardous roadway condition explained above.

**Q: Can my child ride the bus from my friend's house that receives transportation service?**

**A:** No, a student's bus stop is defined by one of the three criteria: (1) student's permanent home address; (2) grandparent's address; or (3) a state-recognized childcare facility.

**Q: Can the district provide a list of eligible child-care facilities eligible for transportation?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: I don't agree that it is non-hazardous for my child to walk to school. What can I do to get the district to re-consider the eligibility for my address, and when will they make a change?**

**A:** For inquiries regarding this issue please call the Transportation center Helpline at 281-955-4010.

**Q: The bus drives down my street on its route but my child is ineligible to ride the bus. Can't the bus just stop for my child since it drives down my street?**

**A:** CFISD buses travel down many streets, by-passing ineligible riders. Picking up these students would create overloads on buses requiring more bus drivers and adding to the expense of the district.

**Q: Can I pay to allow my child to ride the bus?**

**A:** No, that is not an available option.

**Q: Will children be walking home even in bad weather?**

**A:** Transportation eligibility will not change on inclement weather days.

**Q: Can parents carpool, and how do they advise the school?**

**A:** Yes. Please contact your school regarding this.

**Q: Can my child ride his/her bike to school?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Will there be any after-school care facilities at the schools now that school buses aren't provided for all students?**

**A:** Yes, but none other than normally offered at the school.