



**Request for Transportation Waiver**  
**FY 2019-2020**

**Grant Number:** 08CH010247  
**Legal Name of Grantee:** Poudre School District  
**Name of Authorized Official:** Carolyn Martin  
**Title:** Early Childhood Program Director

**Director**  
**Signature:**

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1. Number of Children Served:

Head Start: 275 Children

Early Head Start: 108 Children

2. Number of Children Provided Transportation Services:

Head Start: 150-200 Children

Early Head Start: Zero Children:

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| A. Using Grantee Owned or Leased Vehicles | <u>Yes</u> |
| B. Through Grantee Contracted Services    | <u>No</u>  |

3. Proposed Number of Children who will be covered by Waiver:

Head Start: 150-200 children- can vary daily by family need

Early Head Start: Zero Children

4. Requesting Waiver of:

X Bus Monitor requirement for buses serving less than 5 children  
(45CFR Chapter VIII, 1303.72(a)(4))

5. Waiver applies to: X Grantee                      \_ Delegate

Narrative:

Poudre School District respectfully submits the FY19 Transportation Waiver request for the Bus Monitor requirement in the Head Start Program Performance Standards, number 1303.72 (a) (4).

Poudre School District transports large numbers of 3-5-year-old children within the district's large geographic range. The PSD Early Childhood (EC) Program currently serves 3-5-year-old children in 33 integrated classrooms. Head Start students outside of





neighborhood schools and walk areas are transported to 20 elementary schools within the 1856 square miles encompassing the school district. Currently 150 to 181 Head Start students and another 50-60 Integrated Services/Special Education preschoolers are transported on 80 of 127 runs. The children are placed on existing bus runs which results in operating efficiencies and alignment with program philosophies of promoting Pre-K through 125<sup>th</sup> grade integration and providing inclusive services.

The Early Childhood Program serves children supported by several funding sources. Only some Head Start, McKinney-qualifying, and Integrated Services funded children are transported. Costs for transportation are applied to the appropriate funding source based on the children served. The District Transportation office charges the EC program for mileage only. Salaries for the routing and dispatch staff are not included. The District charges the EC program a lower than standard rate per mile and also donates some miles, providing Non-Federal Share for the program.

The costs of personnel are significant and are the primary obstacle to compliance. With 75 runs carrying preschoolers for 133 days per year, at an average of 3-4 hours per day, and with an estimated hourly rate for bus monitors of \$12.43, the estimated annual cost for a monitor on each bus is approximately \$433,962. The EC program does not have the funds needed for this purpose.

The transportation team has found that bus drivers are able to manage up to 4 children per bus without having a significant impact on run time and without the need for a bus attendant's assistance. Runs with over 4 children create difficulties in managing ~~time and~~ run times. Assistance is needed to secure the students in a timely manner. Of the 75 runs used, only 19 runs carry more than 4 preschool students. Paying for bus monitors on 19 runs will cost approximately \$94,232 to \$125,642 per year. PSD has agreed to pay for these bus monitors and the cost for preschool children is used as non-federal share.

The EC Program and the Transportation department jointly propose that the District require bus attendant on only the 19 runs serving 5 or more young children. The request for waiver is to continue running the 56 remaining runs serving between 1 and 4 preschool students without a bus attendant, as the driver can support up to 4 students. The EC Program is committed to transporting children safely. We believe that providing support on the 19 runs that most need assistance is adequate and financially manageable.

### **Local Background Information**

Poudre School District has been the grantee for the Early Childhood Program for more than 50 years. The program serves approximately 1100 children annually. Children are funded by Head Start, Early Head Start, Colorado Preschool Program, Tuition Based Preschool, Special Education funds and local district funding. Benefits include ~~best practice~~-integrated classrooms staffed by certified teachers dedicated to children's development, for children and in-kind support including building use, facilities maintenance, transportation ~~support~~, and other district staff ~~support~~. This degree of collaborations ~~support~~ allows the District to ~~utilize use its most~~ Federal Head Start and Early Head Start funds in direct support of children and families.

### **Policy Council**

Policy Council supports and appreciates program efforts to increase the level of safety while transporting our children and approves the FY 2019-2020 Transportation Waiver request. Policy Council approval was granted on



**Policy Council Chair  
Signature:**

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**Director Early  
Childhood Signature:**

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