

US School transportation

Yellow buses

School transportation in the US started being introduced by states in the mid 19th century (initially in Massachusetts) and today is recognisable due to the yellow school buses.

In 2006-7 53% of US school children received yellow school bus transport to/from school - equivalent to 26 million young people.

They were transported on almost half a million school buses.

However, individual states vary widely - with only 14% of children in California receiving free transportation compared to more than 90% in Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

Costs

The average cost of school transportation in the US is \$520 p.a. for a 'regular ed' i.e. mainstream child, and \$2,400 for a special needs child. (This is equivalent to about £260 per pupil p.a. and £1,200 per pupil p.a.). The average costs are substantially lower than in the UK reflecting, in part, the shorter distances travelled on average by eligible pupils.

Safety

School buses in the US have been getting progressively safer over the years, with improvements to construction standards and driver training.

On average 6 children a year are killed in a school bus, but 7 are killed around the vehicle - usually crossing in front and/or hit by a passing vehicle.

Overall since 1970 of the 1,151 children killed around school buses, almost 900 were killed either crossing in front of the vehicle or hit by a passing vehicle.

