

Hanford Elementary School District TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PLAN

March 1, 2023





TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION

Per Education Code (EC) Section 39800.1, as a condition of receiving apportionments for Transportation Services (under EC Section 41850.1), a local educational agency shall develop a plan describing the transportation services. The plan shall be presented and adopted by the governing board of the local educational agency on or before April 1, 2023. The plan may provide for the local educational agency to partner with a municipally owned transit system to provide service pursuant to this section to middle school and high school pupils. Nothing in a local educational agency's plan shall preclude a local educational agency from providing no-cost transit passes to pupils.

OUR DISTRICT

The Hanford Elementary School District (HESD) is a medium rural sized school district offering instruction to students from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. The district operates eight elementary schools, two junior high Schools, one K-8 magnet school, and one Community Day School. The district serves approximately 5,500 students per year.

DESCRIPTION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

During the 2021-2022 school year, the district's school bus fleet traveled 89,067 miles, transporting both regular education students and special needs students to and from their respective schools daily. The district operates eight regular education routes and two special needs routes daily. In addition, Kings County Transportation Authority transports Hanford Elementary students that are enrolled in classes operated by the Kings County Office of Education. Transportation is also provided for approximately 559 activity trips (curricular, extra-curricular and athletic) that support the educational activities of the schools. The bus fleet consists of eighteen buses, five of which are electric and thirteen diesels. Hanford Elementary has recently applied for a bus replacement program that will increase our Electric bus fleet to ten, while reducing the diesel fleet to eight.

Hanford Elementary School District offers free home-to-school transportation services to all students that live outside the walking distance of one mile as prescribed by board policy. To prioritize students in K-6 the district has reduced the walking distance to 3/4 of a mile and recommends that parents use the transportation services to maintain regular attendance. The district has established neighborhood bus stops for the community, identified known safety hazards such as railroad tracks, four lane roads and highways, and busy intersections, and has provided additional bus stops for students to

avoid these hazards. The district requires a parent or guardian to pick up Kindergarten and younger students at the respective stops. Hanford Elementary has developed a Courtesy Transportation Program that allows parents to request additional services to accommodate family needs.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN, FOSTER YOUTH AND PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

Hanford Elementary School District offers transportation services in the least restrictive environment to all homeless students, foster youth, and pupils with disabilities that meet the criteria for severely disabled and/or non-ambulatory. Whenever possible, the district provides students with special circumstances access to regular home to school routes so they can be with their peers, Hanford Elementary provides door to door regular bus use for students who are disabled and/or may need extra service as prescribed in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). Hanford Elementary School District provides 2 non-ambulatory or disabled bus routes with wheelchair access. If there is no space available on existing district school buses, or the distance does not allow reasonable service the district provides a reimbursement program to families so they can safely transport their student to school.

The department also supports its special needs, homeless and foster youth students by providing transportation services for activity trips that support the educational activities of the schools, including curricular, extra-curricular and athletic trips for students of the district.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR UNDUPLICATED STUDENTS

Hanford Elementary School District offers free home-to-school transportation services to all unduplicated students that live outside the geographical transportation boundary of one mile and prioritizes students in K-6 by reducing the walking distance to 3/4 of a mile

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The transportation plan is being developed in consultation with Educational Partners composed of classified staff, teachers, parents, students, and administrators. The district is also working with the City of Hanford, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, California Energy Commission (CEC), and California Air Resources Board (CARB) for their input and recommendations. Hanford Elementary meets with the city of Hanford yearly to provide a map of all the neighborhood bus stops provided for student use. At the beginning of every school year the transportation plan is shared with the administrative team to provide changes and receive feedback for the coming year

The plan is posted on the district website and has been emailed to key Educational Partners who were asked to provide input on the proposed plan. In addition, public comments may be submitted at the Hanford Elementary School District School District Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.