

**To: Staff and Parents**  
**From: OJUSD Mustang Movers Transportation Department**  
**Date: July 10, 2023**  
**Regarding: New Law PAB (Public Activity Bus)**

To all interested,

Lawmakers are constantly trying to protect our kids here in California with new protective laws, so with that said, the OJUSD Mustang Movers Transportation Department would like to inform you of a new law that does affect all school districts and parents of children that attend schools in California. VC 545(k)

The purpose of this notice is to ensure that Managers of Transportation (MOT) for the school district of California are aware of the statutory exception of the definition of a school bus in California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 545(k). This exception was added to authorize limousine-type vehicles to transport school pupils to and from school-related activities without the requirement to enter into contractual agreements with schools or school districts, as required for the operation of a School Pupil Activity Bus (SPAB) defined in CVC Section 546. On August 5, 2011, Title 13, the California Code of Regulations (13 CCR) was amended, adopting a regulation that defines any vehicle operated under the exception of the CVC Section 545(k) as a "Pupil Activity Bus" (PAB). A PAB is a motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained to transport more than ten passengers, including the driver, but not more than 25 persons, including the driver while being used for the transportation of pupils to or from school-related activities. This vehicle is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and must be currently registered with them.

A PAB is contracted by a parent or someone other than a school or school district, and unlike a school bus or SPAB, a PAB is not issued and is required to display a vehicle inspection certificate (CHP 292). However, a PAB operator is required to have each PAB pass an annual inspection and place the vehicle inspection report issued by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in an easy-to-reach location in the vehicle. The vehicle inspection report must be presented upon request and include the following statement: "Authorized to transport school pupils CVC 545(K)," followed by the signature and identification number of the CHP employee that conducted the inspection. The driver of the PAB must possess a driver's license of a class appropriate to the vehicle driven, which is endorsed for passenger transportation. The driver must also possess either a school bus or SPAB driver certificate issued by the CHP. This ensures the driver has received proper training and a thorough background check to prevent ex-felons from operating these vehicles. Finally, the driver of a PAB must possess a parental authorization form for each pupil signed by the parent or legal guardian of the pupil that permits that pupil to be transported to or from the school-related activity.

**It has come to our attention that unknown carriers are operating limousine-type vehicles and party buses that are not registered with the PUC and, therefore, would not be authorized to operate as PABs. They can offer potential customers much lower rates than legitimate carriers by operating illegally. It is advised that your student's parents or legal guardians be made aware of these requirements. It is also advisable to share this information with your School Superintendents, Campus Police, and other school employees who may chaperone a prom or other school activity for which these vehicles may be contracted. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact a CHP Motor Carrier Specialist at one of the following offices: Modesto (209)545-7440, Fresno (550)445-6992, Bakersfield (661)395-2921.**

**Bottom line: Limos have to be certified with proper documentation on hand. Limo drivers must have a School bus Driver or SPAB certification from the DMV and CHP. CHP will enforce this for your student's safety. CHP is taking it more seriously because of the San Mateo Bridge incident, which cost people their lives. You will run the risk of CHP showing up to Prom or other school-sponsored events and not getting a ride home, and losing your money. ASK QUESTIONS, ASK ALL THE QUESTIONS WHEN YOU PLAN TO RENT A LIMO, AND ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO RIDE IN IT. If you have any questions, please contact OJUSD Mustang Movers Transportation Department.**

**Thank you,  
Katherine Songer  
Director of Transportation  
(209)847-7003**

