



Pupil Transportation Services Plan

For the

Coachella Valley Unified School District

March 23, 2023



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MANDATE

California Education Code Section 39800.1 states:

- (a) As a condition of receiving apportionments under Section 41850.1, a local educational agency shall develop a plan describing the transportation services it will offer to its pupils, and how it will prioritize planned transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and pupils who are low income. The plan shall be adopted by the local educational agency's governing board on or before April 1, 2023, and updated by April 1 each year thereafter. The plan shall include the following components:
 - (1) A description of the local educational agency's transportation services that would be accessible to pupils with disabilities and homeless children and youth, as defined pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.).
 - (2) A description of how unduplicated pupils, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 42238.02, would be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no cost to the pupils.
- (b)
 - (1) The plan shall be developed in consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, parents, pupils, and other stakeholders.
 - (2) The plan shall be presented and adopted by the governing board of the local educational agency in an open meeting with the opportunity for in-person and remote public comment.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Nothing in a local educational agency's plan shall preclude a local educational agency from providing no-cost transit passes to pupils.
- (e) For purposes of this section, "local educational agency" means a school district or a county office of education.

OVERVIEW

The Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) encompasses 1,250 square miles of rural farmland and desert in southeast Riverside County, including the communities of Thermal, Coachella, Oasis, Mecca, North Shore, Desert Center, and Indio. CVUSD also includes the community of Salton City which is located approximately 60 miles from the Mexico border, in Imperial County. CVUSD is comprised of 21 schools: 14 elementary schools (Transitional Kindergarten - 6th grade) ranging in size from 375 to 980 students; three middle schools (7th - 8th grade) ranging in size from 668 to 988 students; one Middle/High School (7th - 12th grade) with 513 students; two comprehensive high schools (9th – 12th grade) ranging in size from 2,101 to 2,722 students; and one continuation high school with approximately 119 students. The district also serves over 600 students in numerous state and federal programs for preschool children. Approximately 1,000 certificated employees and 950 classified employees serve the needs of our students.

The Coachella Valley Unified Transportation Services Plan incorporates existing Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR) governing pupil transportation support services, as well as descriptions of available services for the current school year. The plan describes:

- transportation services offered to pupils
- the prioritization of planned transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 - 6 inclusive, and pupils who are low income.
- transportation services accessible to pupils with disabilities, and homeless children and youth.
- how unduplicated pupils, would be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no-cost to the pupils.
- the required consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, parents, pupils and other stakeholders.

Pupil Transportation Operations Board Authorization

The Governing Board desires to provide for the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school as necessary to ensure student access to the educational program, promote regular attendance, and reduce tardiness. In determining the extent to which the district will provide transportation services, the Board shall weigh student and community needs against the cost of providing such services. The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Board economical, environmentally sustainable, and appropriate means of providing transportation services. (BP 3540)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the qualifications of bus drivers and related staff employed by the district, provide for the maintenance and operation of district-owned school buses and other equipment, and ensure adequate facilities for equipment storage and maintenance. The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to promote safety for students traveling on school buses. (BP 3540)

To provide transportation services, the Governing Board may purchase, rent or lease vehicles; contract with a common carrier or municipally owned transit system; contract with responsible

private parties including the parent/guardian of the student being transported; and/or contract with the County Superintendent of Schools. In contracting for transportation services, the district shall comply with all applicable laws related to bids and contracts. (AR 3540)

In lieu of providing transportation in whole or in part, the district may pay the student's parents/guardians either their actual and necessary expenses in transporting the student or the cost of the student's food and lodging at a place convenient to the school. In either case, the amount of the payment shall not exceed the cost that would be incurred by the district to provide for the transportation of the student to and from school. (Education Code 39806-39807) (AR3540)

Pupil Data and Route Management Procedures

The Superintendent or designee shall design transportation routes and stops within district boundaries that promote student safety, maximum efficiency in the use of buses, and decreased traffic in and around the schools. (AR3541)

The Superintendent or designee shall communicate in writing to parents/guardians regarding bus routes, schedules, and stops. He/she may also arrange for local media to publish such information. (AR3541)

The district may install a global positioning system (GPS) on school buses and/or student activity buses in order to enhance student safety and provide real-time location data to district and school administrators and parents/guardians. (BP 3540)

Scope of Pupil Transportation Services Offered

Students who attend school outside of their school attendance area or district boundaries may be eligible for transportation services in accordance with district policy. The Superintendent or designee shall design transportation routes and stops within district boundaries that promote student safety, maximum efficiency in the use of buses, and decreased traffic in and around the schools. (AR3541)

The following non-transportation radius distances are established. ***Grade TK-6 students are prioritized with a larger transportable zone than students in subsequent grades. Grade 7-8 students are prioritized with a larger transportable zone than subsequent grades.***

1. For elementary school students:
Grades TK-6: three-fourths mile
2. For students attending a three-year junior high school:
Grades 7-9: one mile
3. For students attending a four-year high school:
Grades 9-12: two miles

The Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation below these limits when safety problems or hazards exist. (AR3541)

The Superintendent or designee shall communicate in writing to parents/guardians regarding bus routes, schedules, and stops. He/she may also arrange for local media to publish such information. (AR3541)

With the Governing Board's authorization, transportation services may be provided or arranged by the district for:

1. Students traveling to and from school during the regular school day
2. Field trips and excursions
3. School activities, expositions or fairs, or other activities determined to be for the benefit of students
4. District employees, parents/guardians, and adult volunteers traveling to and from educational activities authorized by the district
5. Preschool or nursery school students
6. Students traveling to full-time occupational classes provided by a regional occupational center or program
7. Students traveling to and from their places of employment during the summer in connection with a summer employment program for youth
8. Matriculated or enrolled adults traveling to and from school, or adults for educational purposes other than to and from school
9. Private school students, upon the same terms, in the same manner, and on the same routes provided for district students
10. Non school purposes as allowed by law, such as:
 - a. Community recreation
 - b. Public transportation
 - c. Transportation of government employees to and from their places of employment

The district shall provide home-to-school transportation and additional transportation services as needed for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education program or Section 504 plan. (Education Code 41850; 20 USC 1400-1482; 34 CFR 104.4, 300.17, 300.34)

Unduplicated Pupils

The Superintendent or designee shall provide transportation to homeless students in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. When the student resides outside of district boundaries, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district of residence to apportion the responsibility and costs of transportation. The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to determine the provision, arrangement, and funding of transportation to enable foster youth to attend their school of origin when it is in the student's best interest to do so. (AR3541)

Transportation Eligibility Exceptions

Students in the following categories shall be eligible for transportation services without regard to boundary limits:

- Students attending schools or classes for students with disabilities. Provision shall be made for handicapped students who have special transportation needs. Such students shall be transported in the same equipment with regular students if possible.

The Superintendent or designee shall communicate in writing to parents/guardians regarding bus routes, schedules, and stops. He/she may also arrange for local media to publish such information. (AR3541)

Students who attend school outside of their school attendance area or district boundaries may be eligible for transportation services in accordance with district policy. (BP 3541)

Non-Mandated Transportation Services

Transportation Fees

The Governing Board desires to provide for the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school as necessary to ensure student access to the educational program, promote regular attendance, and reduce tardiness. In determining the extent to which the district will provide transportation services, the Board shall weigh student and community needs against the cost of providing such services. (BP 3540)

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Board economical, environmentally sustainable, and appropriate means of providing transportation services. (BP 3540)

The Board may purchase, rent, or lease vehicles; contract with a common carrier or municipally owned transit system; contract with responsible private parties including the parent/guardian of the student being transported; and/or contract with the County Superintendent of Schools. (Education Code 35330, 39800, 39801) (BP 3540)

In contracting for transportation services, the district shall comply with all applicable laws related to bids and contracts. (Education Code 39802-39803) (BP 3540)

When transportation is not specifically required by the IEP or Section 504 plan of a student with disabilities, the student shall be subject to the rules and policies regarding regular transportation offerings within the district. (BP 3541.2)

Low Income Eligibility & Unduplicated Pupils

Transportation services specified in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan shall be provided at no cost to the student or his/her parent/guardian. (BP 3541.2)

The transportation fee shall be waived for students with demonstrated financial need in accordance with Education Code 39807.5. Eligibility for free transportation based on financial need shall be determined in accordance with the income eligibility scales used for the free and reduced-price lunch program. (BP 3250)

All pupils, residing within transportation eligible zones described in the scope of services will receive transportation services at no cost.

Mandated Transportation Services

Transportation for Students with Disabilities

The Governing Board desires to meet the transportation needs of students with disabilities to enable them to benefit from special education and related services. The district shall provide appropriate transportation services for a student with disabilities when the district is the student's district of

residence and the transportation services are required by his/her individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan. (BP 3541.2)

The specific needs of the student shall be the primary consideration when an IEP team is determining the student's transportation needs. Considerations may include, but are not limited to, the student's health needs, travel distances, physical accessibility and safety of streets and sidewalks, accessibility of public transportation systems, midday or other transportation needs, extended-year services, and, as necessary, implementation of a behavioral intervention plan. (BP 3541.2)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide IEP teams with information about district transportation services in order to assist them in making decisions as to the mode, schedule, and location of transportation services that may be available to each student with disabilities. The IEP team may communicate with district transportation staff and/or invite transportation staff to attend IEP team meetings where the student's transportation needs will be discussed. (BP 3541.2)

Transportation services specified in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan shall be provided at no cost to the student or his/her parent/guardian. (BP 3541.2)

If a student whose IEP or accommodation plan specifies transportation needs is excluded from school bus transportation for any reason, such as suspension, expulsion, or other reason, the district shall provide alternative transportation at no cost to the student or parent/guardian. (Education Code 48915.5) (BP 3541.2)

When contracting with a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency to provide special education services, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the contract includes general administrative and financial agreements related to the provision of transportation services if specified in the student's IEP. (Education Code 56366) (BP 3541.2)

The Superintendent or designee shall arrange transportation schedules so that students with disabilities do not spend an excessive amount of time on buses compared to other students. Arrivals and departures shall not reduce the length of the school day for these students except as may be prescribed on an individual basis. (BP 3541.2)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any mobile seating devices used on district buses are compatible with bus securement systems required by 49 CFR 571.222. (Education Code 56195.8) As necessary, a student with disabilities may be accompanied on school transportation by a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104, including a specially trained guide dog, signal dog, or service dog. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.1-54.2; 28 CFR 35.136) (BP 3541.2)

When transportation is not specifically required by the IEP or Section 504 plan of a student with disabilities, the student shall be subject to the rules and policies regarding regular transportation offerings within the district. (BP 3541.2)

Unduplicated Pupils - Homeless Students and Youth in Transition

Within the scope of services offered, and in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation, homeless students and youth in transition, where transportation is a barrier to accessing their educational services, shall be provided transportation on school buses, municipal buses, or through alternative transportation service providers, at no cost to the student.

2022-2023 School Bus and Alternative Transportation Services Offered

Figure 1 below provides details of Coachella Valley Unified School District services provided on school bus routes.

	General Education	Special Education	Total
Routes	44	28	72
Students Transported	6836	421	7,257
TK-6 Students Transported			
Unduplicated Students Transported	6,275	397	6,672
Percentage of Transportation Eligible Unduplicated Students Transported	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of Total District Unduplicated Students Transported	91.7%	94%	91.9%
Bus Passes Sold	0	0	0
Free Bus Passes Issued	No Fees	No Fees	No Fees
Miles Traveled	540,000	450,000	990,000
Student Rider Demographics	In the district 91.8% of students are part of the unduplicated student count; 87.8% of students are from low income households, and 54% of students are transported daily to school. 43.4% of its 16,625 students are classified as English Learners (ELs)	In the district 11.9% of the student population are identified as students with disabilities; 94.5% of students with disabilities are part of the unduplicated pupil count; 44% of students are classified as English Learners (ELs)	

Figure 1: School Bus Transportation (2022-2023)

Coachella Valley Unified School District students is **NOT** using alternative transportation services for students at this time.

Alternative Transportation (2022-2023)

2023-2024 Projected School Bus and Alternative Transportation Services Offered

Figure 2 below projects details of Coachella Valley Unified School District services to be provided on school bus routes during the 2023-2024 school year.

	General Education	Special Education	Total
Routes	44	28	72
Students Transported	6836	421	7,257
TK-6 Students Transported			
Unduplicated Students Transported	6,275	397	6,672
Percentage of Transportation Eligible Unduplicated Students Transported	100%	100%	100%
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Student Rider Demographics	In the district 91.8% of students are part of the unduplicated student count; 87.8% of students are from low income households, and 54% of students are transported daily to school. 43.4% of its 16,625 students are classified as English Learners (ELs)	In the district 11.9% of the student population are identified as students with disabilities; 94.5% of students with disabilities are part of the unduplicated pupil count; 44% of students are classified as English Learners (ELs)	

Figure 2: School Bus Transportation (2023-2024)

Coachella Valley Unified School District students **do not use** alternative transportation services during the 2023-2024 school year.

Alternative Transportation (2023-2024)

Transportation Funding and Finance

Figure 3 below contains the projected reimbursement for the current school year based on transportation expenses in the 2021-2022 school year.

Revenue Calculation	
Total 2021-22 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	12,499,338.97
Less Capital Outlay (object 6XXX, Function 3600)	0
Less Nonagency Expenditures (Goal 7110,7150, Function 3600)	0
Estimated 60% Reimbursement	7,499,603.38
Less 2021-22 Transportation add-on (from LCFF Calculator)	3,023,883
Total Revenue (Object 8590, Resource 0000)	\$4,475,720.38
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	
2000-2999 - Classified Salaries	6,798,006.65
3000-3999 - Employee Benefits	4,251,349.07
4000-4999 - Books and Supplies	1,755,420.24
5000-5999 - Services and other Operating Expenditures	-305,436.99
6000-6999 - Capital Outlay	0
7000-7999 - Other Outgo	0
Total Expenditures	12,499,338.97

Figure 3: Transportation Funding Reimbursement Calculation for Current School Year

Board Approval Date: March 23, 2023

The Transportation plan and revenue calculations were developed in accordance with Education Code Sections 39800.1 and 41850.1.

APPENDIX – REQUIRED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

In compliance with the mandate, Figure 4 lists the stakeholders invited to collaborate on the development of the Coachella Valley Unified School District transportation plan.

Stakeholder Entities	Date
School Administrators, Classified School Employees Leadership, Coachella Valley Teachers Association Leadership	12/15/2022
Classified staff, Teachers, School Administrators, Pupils, Parents Regional Local Transit Authority, Local Air Pollution District, Local Air Quality District, Other Stakeholders	1/25/2023
Classified staff, Teachers, School Administrators, Pupils, Parents Regional Local Transit Authority, Local Air Pollution District, Local Air Quality District, Other Stakeholders	2/16/2023
Student Leadership C.V.H.S.	2/27/2023
C.S.E.A. Representatives	3/13/2023
Student Ambassadors La Familia High School	3/14/2023
Student Leadership D.M.H.S.	3/15/2023
C.V.T.A. Representative	3/15/2023
Student Leadership W.S.H.S.	3/21/2023*

Figure 4 Required Stakeholder Consultations