

TRANSPORTATION PLAN



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Mandate

California Education Code

39800.1.

(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 Southern Kern Unified School District's Transportation Plan incorporates existing Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR) that govern pupil transportation support services, as well as augmented descriptions for the current school year. Specifically, the plan outlines:

- Transportation services offered by Southern Kern Unified School District to its pupils.
- How Southern Kern Unified School District prioritizes transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-6, inclusive, and low-income students.
- Access to transportation services for Southern Kern Unified School District's pupils with disabilities and homeless children and youth.
- How Southern Kern Unified School District's unduplicated pupils can access home-to-school transportation at no-cost.
- The consultation with Southern Kern Unified School District's classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, parents, pupils, and other stakeholders in developing the plan

Board Authorization for Student Transportation

California Education Code

39800.

(a) The governing board of any school district may provide for the transportation of pupils to and from school whenever in the judgment of the board the transportation is advisable and good reasons exist therefor.

The governing board may purchase or rent and provide for the upkeep, care, and operation of vehicles, or may contract and pay for the transportation of pupils to and from school by common carrier or municipally owned transit system or may contract with and pay responsible private parties for the transportation.

(b) As used in this article, "municipally owned transit system" means a transit system owned by a city, or by a district.

Board Policy

3540.

School buses shall be purchased, operated, and maintained or arranged for through commercial carriers, or otherwise in the most efficient and economical manner for the transportation of eligible resident children between their homes and schools of attendance.

Smaller vehicles may be substituted for reasons of economy or more efficient operation with the approval of the Board.

All transportation shall be handled from one central office.

California Education Code

35350.

No student shall be required to be transported for any reason without the written permission of the student's parent/guardian, except in emergency situations involving illness or injury to the student.

Transportation Services Offered

Administrative Regulation

3541.

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.

Students shall be eligible for transportation service to and from school if the distance between their school-established bus stop and the school is beyond the minimum listed below:

1. For elementary school students:

Grades TK-5: one mile

2. For students attending a three-year junior high school:

Grades 6-8: one and a half miles

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.

The Superintendent or designee shall communicate in writing to parents/guardians regarding bus routes, schedules, and stops. Communication may be arranged with local media to publish such information.

With the Board of Trustees' 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.

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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.

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

Pupils with Disabilities

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.

Homeless Children and Youth

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.

Foster Youth

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.

Transportation for Pupils with Disabilities

Board Policy

3541.2.

The Board of Trustees 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Transportation for Homeless Children and Youth

Board Policy

6173.

The Governing Board believes that the identification of homeless students is critical to improving the educational outcomes of such students and ensuring that homeless students have access to the same free and appropriate public education provided to other students within the district. The district shall provide homeless students with access to education and other services necessary for such students to meet the same challenging academic standards as other students.

Administrative Regulation

6173.

The district shall provide transportation for a homeless student to and from the student's school of origin when the student is residing within the district and the parent/guardian, or the district liaison in the case of an unaccompanied youth, requests that such transportation be provided. If the student moves outside of district boundaries, but continues to attend the student's school of origin within this district, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district in which the student is now residing to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation.

The district shall not be obligated to provide transportation to students who continue attending their school of origin after they cease to be homeless, unless the formerly homeless student has an IEP that includes transportation as a necessary related service for the student.

Transportation for Foster Youth

Board Policy

6173.1.

The Board of Trustees recognizes that foster youth may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to their family circumstances, disruption to their educational program, and their emotional, social, and other health needs. To enable such students to achieve state and district academic standards, the Superintendent or designee shall provide them with full access to the district's educational program and implement strategies identified as necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

Administrative Regulation

6173.1

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to determine how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded in a cost-effective manner

to enable foster youth to remain in their school of origin, for the duration of their time in foster care, when it is in their best interest to do so. Such transportation costs may be paid by either the child welfare agency or the district, or shared by both.

Transportation Fees

The Governing Board desires to provide no-cost transportation services for students of the district as long as adequate funding is available for providing this service. Additionally, the Board recognizes that the community places a high priority on having this no cost service available.

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, including the district's bus pass system.

Students in Transitional Kindergarten through Sixth Grade

Students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade, inclusive and low-income students, will receive priority no-cost transportation services if they reside within the transportation zone.

Low Income

The Board shall establish financial assistance requirements which shall be reviewed and adjusted periodically to meet the district's needs, should funding prevent the district from providing no-cost transportation for its students.

Unduplicated Pupils

No charge shall be made for any transportation of students whose individualized education program requires transportation or whose parents/guardians are determined indigent pursuant to administrative regulations.

Unduplicated pupils, residing within transportation eligible zones described in the scope of services, may apply for free school bus passes at the Transportation Office.

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 Student Rider Demographics

The chart below illustrates the current services provided on school bus routes by Southern Kern Unified School District.

	General Education	Special Education	Total
Routes	8	4	12
Students Transported	1566	59	1625
TK-6 Students Transported	680	34	714
Unduplicated Students Transported	1345	50	1395
Pupils with Disabilities	264	59	323
English Learners	296	6	302
Homeless Pupils	122	4	126
Foster Pupils	60	4	64
Bus Passes Sold	0	0	0
Free Bus Passes Issued	1566	0	1566
Miles Traveled	110,699	37,520	148,219

Transportation Funding and Finance

The following figure illustrates the projected reimbursement for the current school year based on the transportation expenses in the school year 2021-2022.

Revenue Calculation	
Total 2021-22 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	1,683,508.84
Less Capital Outlay (object 6XXX, Function 3600)	104,354.26
Less Nonagency Expenditures (Goal 7110,7150, Function 3600)	-
Estimated 60% Reimbursement	947,492.75
Less 2021-22 Transportation add-on (from LCFF Calculator)	415,365.00
Total Revenue (Object 8590, Resource 0000)	532,127.75
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	
2000-2999 - Classified Salaries	744,108.74
3000-3999 - Employee Benefits	478,930.66
4000-4999 - Books and Supplies	250,034.11
5000-5999 - Services and other Operating Expenditures	106,081.07
6000-6999 - Capital Outlay	104,354.26
7000-7999 - Other Outgo	-
Total Expenditures	1,683,508.84

Board Approval Date: March 15, 2023

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

Appendix – Required Stakeholder Consultations

The following table lists the stakeholders invited to collaborate on the development of the Southern Kern Unified School transportation plan in accordance with the mandate.

Stakeholder Entities	Date
Classified staff	3/1/2023
Teachers	3/1/2023
School Administrators	3/1/2023
Pupils	3/1/2023
Parents	3/4/2023
Regional Local Transit Authority	2/22/2023
Local Air Pollution District	2/22/2023
Local Air Quality District	2/22/2023
Other Stakeholders	2/14/2023