



# Visalia Unified School District **TRANSPORTATION PLAN**



**2023-2024**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

AB 185 Background

Transportation Services

Consultation

Home-to-School Reimbursement Calculation

Contact Information

## AB185 BACKGROUND

Home-to-School (HTS) Transportation Reimbursement was implemented by Assembly Bill (AB) 181 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2022) and amended by AB 185 (Chapter 571, Statutes of 2022). It provides reimbursement funding for school districts and county offices of education based on prior year eligible transportation expenditures and prior year Local Control Funding Formula transportation related add-on funding.

In accordance with Education Code 39800.1, the District shall develop a plan describing the transportation services it will offer to its pupils and how it will prioritize planned transportation services for pupils who are low income. The plan shall be adopted by the local education agency's governing board on or before April 1, 2023 and updated by April 1 each year thereafter.

Pursuant to Education Code Section 39800.1, Visalia Unified School District has developed the following plan describing the transportation services it will offer to pupils and how it will prioritize planned transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive of pupils who are low income.

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**1. Provide a description of the transportation services offered to pupils, and how it will prioritize planned transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 – 6 inclusive and pupils who are low income. The plan may provide for the LEA to partner with a municipally owned transit system to provide services to middle and high school students. An LEA may provide no cost transit passes to students.**

*The Visalia Unified School District 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. The extent to which the district provides for transportation services shall depend upon student and community needs and a continuing assessment of financial resources. The superintendent or designee shall design transportation routes and stops to promote the safety of students and maximize efficiency in the use of buses. 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, transportation will be prioritized as follows: grades Kinder and 1-3: one mile; for grades 4-6: two and one-half miles. 2) For students grades 7-8: two and one-half mile radius. 3) For grades 9-12 three mile radius. The superintendent or designee may authorize transportation within the walking distance when safety problems or hazards exist. Students who attend a school outside their attendance area may be eligible for transportation services in accordance with Board Policy. The superintendent or designee shall communicate in writing to parents/guardians regarding such routes and schedules. With the Board of Trustee'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 (EC 39800). 2) Field trips and excursions (EC35330). 3) School activities, expositions or fairs, or other activities determined to be for the benefit of students (EC39860). 4) Preschool school students (EC39800). 5) Students traveling to full-time occupation classes provided by a Regional Program or Center (EC39807.5, 42850). 6) Matriculated or enrolled adults traveling to and from school, or adults for educational purposes other than to and from school (EC39801.5). 7) Private school students, in the same manner and on the same routes provided for district students (EC39808). To provide transportation services, the Board of Trustees may purchase, rent or lease vehicles; contract with a common carrier or municipally owned transit system (Visalia Transit); contract with responsible private parties including the parent/guardian of the student being transported. (EC 35330, 39800, 39801) In contracting for transportation services, the district shall comply with all applicable laws related to bids and contracts. (Education Code 39802- 39803).*

**2. Provide a description of the LEA’s transportation services that would be accessible to pupils with disabilities, and homeless children and youth.**

The Visalia Unified School District shall provide home-to-school transportation and additional transportation services for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education programs (EC41850). The Board of Trustees shall ensure that appropriate transportation services are provided for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education program (IEP) or accommodation plan. The district shall make home-to-school transportation available for students at no cost to parents/guardians as specified in the student's IEP. The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria and procedures for determining the most appropriate mode of transportation for an individual student based on identified needs as determined in the IEP or accommodation plan. 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 establish procedures to ensure compatibility between mobile seating devices and bus securement systems. The superintendent or designee shall provide transportation to homeless children in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation. To provide transportation services, the Board of Trustees may purchase, rent or lease vehicles; contract with a common carrier or municipally owned transit system (Visalia Transit); contract with responsible private parties including the parent/guardian of the student being transported. (Education Code 35330, 39800, 39801) In contracting for transportation services, the district shall comply with all applicable laws related to bids and contracts. (Education Code 39802- 39803). 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)

**3. Provide a description of how unduplicated pupils would be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no-cost to the pupils.**

The district provides no cost transportation to all pupils in Visalia Unified. VUSD's unduplicated pupil percentage is just over 68% of students. Through the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), the district provides funding to support no cost transportation targeted for unduplicated pupils. This includes support for Linked Learning Academies, Visual and Performing Arts, Pre-first courses, sporting activities, and general home to school transportation. Additionally, the LCAP supports transportation provided by parents or guardians for students experiencing homelessness through purchases of fuel to ensure students can be transported to school.

For the purposes of this section “unduplicated pupil” means a pupil enrolled in a school district or a charter school who is either classified as an English learner, eligible for a free or reduced-price meal, or is a foster youth.

To provide transportation services, the Board of Trustees may purchase, rent or lease vehicles; contract with a common carrier or municipally owned transit system (Visalia Transit); contract with responsible private parties including the parent/guardian of the student being transported. (Education Code 35330, 39800, 39801) In contracting for transportation services, the district shall comply with all applicable laws related to bids and contracts. (Education Code 39802- 39803). 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)

**CONSULTATION**

**4. Provide a description of the required plan consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authority, local air pollution control district, parents, pupils and other stakeholders.**

To comply with Ed Code, the Visalia Unified School District has emailed this document to both: Visalia Transit - Email: TD Online@visalia.city and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Email: anna.myers@valleyair.org. Other consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, parents, pupils and other educational partners via the Visalia Unified school District communication platform Blackboard <https://vusd.parentlink.net/> where this document is posted for review. And this document is also posted on our school district transportation website.

<https://www.vusd.org/Page/19711> All educational partners are given until **March 28, 2024** to provide feedback.

Responses for feedback can be sent to the following email: hernandez@vusd.org. Nothing in this plan shall preclude the Visalia Unified School District from providing no-cost passes to pupils.

# HOME-TO-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

## AB185 Reimbursement Calculation and Application:

<b>Revenue Calculation</b>		
Estimated 2023-24 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)		8,990,970.00
Less Estimated Capital Outlay (object 6XXX, Function 3600)		1,114,896.00
Less Estimated Nonagency Expenditures (Goal 7110,7150, Function 3600)		1,503,602.00
Estimated 60% Reimbursement		3,823,483.20
Less Estimated 2024-25 Transportation add-on (from LCFF Calculator)		1,236,524.00
<b>Total Revenue (Object 8590, Resource 0000)</b>		<b>2,586,959.20</b>
<b>Expenditures and Other Financing Uses (Estimates)</b>		
2000-2999 - Classified Salaries		3,805,284.00
3000-3999 - Employee Benefits		2,606,682.00
4000-4999 - Books and Supplies		1,336,266.00
5000-5999 - Services and other Operating Expenditures		(1,371,260.00)
6000-6999 - Capital Outlay		1,110,396.00
7000-7999 - Other Outgo		-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>7,487,368.00</b>
<b>Board Approval Date:</b>	<i>(must be on or before April 1, 2024)</i>	

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

You may contact the Business Department 559-931-8070

The Transportation Department 559-730-7860