

San Luis Coastal Unified School District
Transportation Plan
February 4, 2025 Board Approval

Background:

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.

Timeline:

The initial plan included the 2022-23 school year as well as the 2023-24 school year. This is the second update of the transportation plan for the 2025-26 school year.

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.)**

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.

SLCUSD provides home to school transportation to all TK-12th grade students. Students who are economically disadvantaged, English learners, foster/homeless youth, and students with disabilities whose individualized educational program includes transportation as a related service necessary to receive a free appropriate public education. Upon enrollment and at the beginning of the school year, parents and students are notified of the bus route information, as well as the standards and process for waiving of any transportation fees.

If a student is a foster/homeless youth, the district's foster/homeless youth coordinator works with the student/family to provide transportation services. This can be within our district or in coordination with other school districts as necessary.

We are very fortunate to have a well-run and strong transportation team. We have been able to maintain all our home-to-school routes, as well as provide late activity transportation. With the assistance of our staff and community partners, our TK and K students are full day; they have the same transportation opportunities as the entire student population. We also have transportation to our magnet schools (Baywood, Pacheco, and Teach), which allows parental choice when space is available at those sites. We also provide transportation to all of our summer school programs.

The department continues to work hard on recruitment and training. Our goal is to have two cover drivers, so that we can cover drivers who are sick, as well as limit the amount of time our

mechanics must drive. It also allows us to run more field trip requests and save money on charter buses.

- 2. 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.**

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.

Each year, the Transportation Department adjusts and adapts our offerings based on student needs and enrollment. The staff works directly with Student Support Services and school site personnel to review all students with transportation as a part of their IEPs. They develop routes and schedules to meet the needs of the students and attempt to limit the travel time for students as much as possible. Students with severe needs are accommodated and supported as necessary. While developing the Special Education routes, the Transportation Department also opens enrollment for all transportation services. Tentative routes, along with enrollment information, are posted for students/parents to enroll. The website is updated as routes and schedules are finalized.

Enrollment includes information for student waivers of transportation fees. If needed, parents can complete this enrollment with the assistance of school site staff and utilizing district technology.

As part of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) process, students, parents, staff, and community members give feedback to the Board of Education on all aspects of the district's programs, including transportation. In fact, transportation has been highlighted as a necessity by our English Learner Advisory Committees in previous years. The LCAP communication by stakeholders occurs throughout the school year annually.

SLCUSD maintains an active relationship with our local transit authorities, including SLO Transit and the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority. The local transit authorities are a welcome addition to our services for students and information about their services is shared with students and parents. The district purchases bus passes for use with these transit authorities to assist students when special circumstances are required. The transit authorities also give our students free bus passes during the summer months to increase ridership.

SLCUSD also works in conjunction with the San Luis County Air Pollution Control District, as well as Safe Routes to School programs. The district has received several grants for low emission buses in the past and is currently working on grants to include more electric vehicles in its fleet. We have installed two smaller electric charging stations at the BG&T yard and have one electric bus in use, along with an electric car. The district has received a grant for ten electric buses. We are currently working with PG&E to put in more charging infrastructure, which is also being paid for out of grant funds.

The district regularly meets with Safe Routes to Schools representatives from the County, as well as City staff. The City of San Luis Obispo continues to make bicycle safety a priority and many streets have been changed to accommodate bicycle safety. Bicycle safety education, safe routes to school, walk and bike to school days, etc. are all being implemented throughout the district. We will continue to work directly with our community partners to not only enhance our transportation services for students, but also to improve the safety of our students who walk and/or bike to school.

This plan will be approved at a regularly scheduled open Board Meeting.

- 3. 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 and high school pupils.**

As stated above, the district already provides transportation services to all students TK-12. We do utilize community transit services for students when appropriate as well. We also work with the local transit authorities on bell schedules and school calendars, so that they can change their transit schedules as necessary.

- 4. Nothing in a local educational agency's plan shall preclude a local educational agency from providing no-cost transit passes to pupils.**

We have nothing in our Board Policy or Administrative Regulations that precludes the district from providing no-cost transit passes to pupils.

- 5. For purposes of this section, "local educational agency" means a school district or a county office of education.**

San Luis Coastal Unified School District is a school district.