Pupil Transportation Services Plan

For the

Fontana Unified School District

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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 then 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.

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OVERVIEW

The Fontana Unified School District Transportation Services Plan incorporates existing Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR) governing pupil transportation support services, as well as augmented 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

Transportation services shall be provided for students of the district according to policies adopted by the Governing Board, district Administrative Procedures, and in accordance with Titles V, VIII, and XIII of the California Administrative Code, the Vehicle Code, and the Education Code.

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.

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.

Pupil Data and Route Management Procedures

The Transportation Department will annually obtain student data updates and their home addresses from Information Technology. The Transportation Department shall assign students to buses and bus stops and so notify affected schools based upon current student transportation eligibility criteria.

School bus route information shall be maintained for all regular and special education home-to-school bus runs. Each route shall show the route of travel, the pick-up and drop-off locations, and the expected time of departure from each location. A school bus stop master listing, showing all active and non-active bus stops, shall also be maintained by the Transportation Department.

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The criteria for bus route design are to provide a safe route to and from school, minimize miles driven, allow adequate time for schedules to be met, and to effectively utilize staff and equipment resources. Bus stops shall only be assigned within the transportation eligibility areas established.

The Transportation Department shall adjust and modify routes and schedules as appropriate to maintain an optimum level of transportation services. A complete file of all current bus schedules shall be maintained in the Transportation Department.

Scope of Pupil Transportation Services Offered

The number of available vehicles owned and operated by the district is limited. These vehicles are provided for the purpose of carrying out the required operation of the district and shall not be used for personal reasons.

Transportation services may be provided for students who live within their home school boundary. Students shall be eligible for transportation service to and from school id the distance between their school -established bus stop and the school is beyond the minimum listed below:

Grade	0.5 mile
Grades 1-5	1.0 mile
Grades 6-8	3.25 miles
Grades 9-12	4.0 miles

The Superintendent or designee shall communicate to parents/guardians regarding bus routes, schedules, and stops.

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

- Students traveling to and from school during the regular school day
- Field trips and excursions
- School activities, expositions or fairs, or other activities determined to be for the benefit of students
- District employees and parents/guardians traveling to and from educational activities authorized by the district
- Students traveling to full-time occupational classes provided by a Regional Occupational Program or Center

The district shall provide home-to-school transportation and additional transportation services as needed for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education programs. (AR 3541)

Unduplicated Pupils

The Superintendent or designee shall provide transportation to homeless children in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation.

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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.
- Students assigned to special training schools or classes, social adjustment classes, or other schools or classes for exceptional children who are physically or mentally disabled.

Transporting students from one school to another for the purpose of balancing class loads to relieve overcrowded conditions, or to provide educational opportunities not available at the regular school of attendance, is authorized at the discretion of the Superintendent, or his/her designee.

Students who voluntarily transfer to other than their home school are not eligible for transportation.

Students dismissed at other-than-scheduled school dismissal hours will not be provided transportation services except on regularly scheduled bus runs.

Non-Mandated Transportation Services

Transportation Fees

The Governing Board desires to provide 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 service available.

It is the intent of the Board to limit the expenditure of funds for transportation services that could otherwise be spent on educational programs.

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 transportation fee structure.

Low Income Eligibility and 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.

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

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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 IEP team shall 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.

Special Education Services should represent the Transportation Department and their policies and procedures during the IEP process. The Director of Transportation may designate a representative from the Transportation Department to represent transportation issues during an IEP meeting when it is known that there will be detailed discussions of transportation issues. If the Special Education Department is aware of unusual or special transportation needs, a member of the Transportation Department may be present during the IEP process.

Pertinent issues of a student's transportation need, such as wheelchair/stroller, car seats, medical needs, disciplinary issues, and other particular needs, must be noted in the IEP.

The above information must then be communicated to the Transportation Department for scheduling of the student’s transportation.

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.

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.

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2024-2025 School Bus and Alternative Transportation Services Offered

The chart below provides current details of the Fontana Unified School District services provided on school bus routes.

	General Education	Special Education	Total
Routes	29	59	88
Students Transported			
TK-6 Students Transported	857	405	1,262
7-8 Students Transported	375	21	396
9-12 Students Transported	964	199	1,163
Unduplicated Students Transported	2,196	625	2,821
Miles Traveled	374,600	836,000	1,210,600
Free Bus Passes Issued	All	All	

Transportation Funding and Finance

The chart below contains the projected reimbursement for the current school year based on transportation expenses in the 2023-2024 school year.

Transportation Services Allowance Data	
Total 2023-24 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	$10,257,999.66
Less Capital Outlay (object 6XXX, Function 3600)	-
Less Nonagency Expenditures (Goal 7110,7150, Function 3600)	-
Estimated 60% Reimbursement	$6,154,799.80
Less 2023-24 Transportation add-on (from LCFF Calculator)	($1,614,272)
Total Home to School Transportation Reimbursement	$4,540,527.80
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	
2000-2999 - Classified Salaries	$3,075,665.46
3000-3999 - Employee Benefits	$1,957,490.91
4000-4999 - Books and Supplies	$682,064.32
5000-5999 - Services and other Operating Expenditures	$4,542,778.97
6000-6999 - Capital Outlay	-
7000-7999 - Other Outgo	-
Total Expenditures	$10,257,999.66

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

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APPENDIX – REQUIRED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

In compliance with the mandate, the chart below lists the stakeholders invited to collaborate on the development of the Fontana Unified School District Transportation Plan.

Stakeholder Entities	Date
Classified staff	23
Teachers	18
School Administrators	6
Pupils	35
Parents	12
Regional Local Transit Authority	1
Local Air Pollution District	0
Local Air Quality District	1
Other Stakeholders	2

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