



# PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PLAN

For the  
**Patterson Joint Unified  
School District**

February 2026





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## MANDATE

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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, 2025, 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 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.

*(Amended by Stats. 2023, Ch. 48, Sec. 19. (SB 114) Effective July 10, 2023.)*



## **OVERVIEW**

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The Patterson Joint Unified School District serves approximately 6,250 students within a 394 square mile area. During the 23-24 school year, our transportation partners traveled over 526,976 miles to service our student population. Our Transportation Services Plan incorporates some of the 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 identified as low income.
- transportation services accessible to pupils with disabilities, and youth experiencing homelessness.
- how unduplicated pupils, will 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**

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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**

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The Transportation Department will annually obtain student data updates and their home addresses from the District's student information system. The Transportation Department shall assign students to buses and bus stops and to notify affected schools based upon current student transportation eligibility criteria.

School bus route information shall be maintained for all regular education and special education home-to-school bus routes. 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.

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.

Buses shall be routed on public thoroughfares only. Locations of stops shall be authorized by the Superintendent or designee.

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. The Transportation Department shall furnish each school with the current bus schedules for that school. The respective schools shall maintain their files with the most current bus schedules as provided by the Transportation Department. Schools shall be responsible to ensure that their bus duty personnel are kept abreast of all changes.

## **Scope of Pupil Transportation Services Offered**

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Students who attend a school outside their attendance area may be eligible for transportation services in accordance with Governing Board policy.

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 is currently available and will remain so for all students who live within their home school boundary and outside the non-transportation radius area. Non-transportation radius area will be measured in radius fashion, straight-line distance ([https://www.mapdevelopers.com/distance\\_from\\_to.php](https://www.mapdevelopers.com/distance_from_to.php)) from each school site. The Superintendent or designee shall design transportation routes and stops to promote the safety of students and maximum efficiency in the use of buses.

The following non-transportation radius distances are established. Grade TK-3 students are prioritized with a larger transportable zone than students in subsequent grades. Grade 4-8 grade students are prioritized with a larger transportable zone than subsequent grades.

Grade	Distance
▪ TK-3	.75-mile radius
▪ 4-8	1.5-mile radius
▪ 9-12	3.0-mile radius



Students living in the non-transportation radius areas may request access to existing bus routes on a space-available basis as determined by the Superintendent or designee. Requests can be made by completing the Bus Transportation Request Form found on the Patterson Joint Unified School District website.

Students who voluntarily transfer to other than their home school are not eligible for transportation; for example, students on an Intra-District Transfer

Students dismissed at other-than-scheduled school dismissal hours will not be provided transportation services except on regularly-scheduled bus runs. Students who remain at school for after-school activities may be provided transportation on activity school-to-home routes.

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

The district shall provide home-to-school transportation and additional transportation services as needed for students with disabilities as specified in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

### ***Homeless Pupils***

The Superintendent or designee shall provide transportation to homeless children at no cost in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation.

### ***Foster Youth***

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with County Child Welfare and other school districts to provide transportation to foster youth at no cost. These costs shall be shared in accordance with law and applicable foster youth transportation agreements.

## **Transportation Eligibility Exceptions**

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

Transporting students from one school to another for the purpose of balancing class sizes 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 designee.

When transportation is considered to be a necessary intervention for a chronically absent student, subject to the recommendation of the School Attendance Review Board.



Our contracted Transportation Company has an exception that allows drivers' children, attending Patterson Schools, the ability to ride the bus regardless of radius area.

## **Non-Mandated Transportation Services**

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### ***Transportation Fees***

The 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. Currently, all students living outside of the non-transportation radius are eligible for transport. (BP 3540)

### ***Students With Disabilities, Special Education or Section 504 Students***

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 transportation offerings within the district.

### ***Unduplicated Pupils (as defined in Ed. Code Sec. 42238.02 (b))***

No charge shall be made for any transportation of low-income students residing outside the District's non-transportation radius.

## **Mandated Transportation Services**

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### ***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 IEP or Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

The specific needs of the student shall be the primary consideration when an IEP Team or Section 504 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.

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.

A Special Education Representative should represent the Transportation Department and their policies and procedures during the IEP or Section 504 process. The Special Education Representative may designate a representative from the Transportation Department to represent transportation issues during an IEP or Section 504 meeting when it is known that there will be detailed discussions of transportation issues.



Pertinent issues of a student's transportation needs, such as wheelchair/stroller, car seats, medical needs, disciplinary issues, and other particular needs, must be noted in the IEP or Section 504 Plan.

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

All parents/guardians will receive the necessary information during the IEP meeting or the Section 504 Plan meeting.

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 Students, TK, Homeless Students and Foster Youth***

Any TK, unduplicated students, homeless students, and foster youth, residing within District boundaries and outside the non-transportation zone of the District is eligible for free transportation. However, where homeless or foster youth live outside of District boundaries, in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation, transportation shall be provided at no cost to the student. Additionally, for TK, unduplicated, homeless and foster youth living within the District's non-transportation boundaries and where transportation is a barrier to accessing their educational services, transportation for these students will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

## **Additional Transportation Options**

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Patterson Dial-A-Ride provides curb-to-curb transportation within the city of Patterson and the communities of Wesley and Grayson.

The phone number is (209) 527-4900. Rides can be scheduled between three hours and up to seven days in advance. **There is no charge to students under the age of 18 years old.**

Service is available:

Monday – Friday: between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. out of service)  
Saturday: between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. out of service)