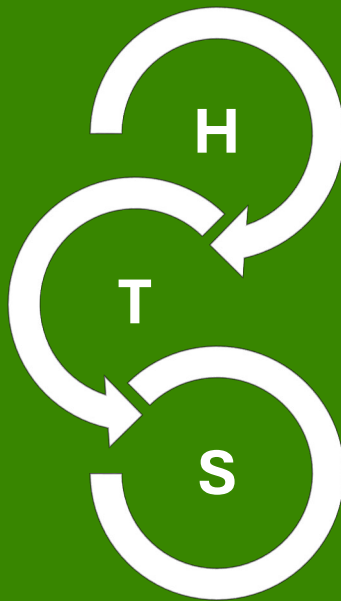


2026-2027

ADDENDUM TO HOME-TO-SCHOOL PLAN



Shelley Humphrey, Director, Transportation
NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - TRANSPORTATION DEPT.

2/26/26



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Newport-Mesa
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Addendum Introduction

As required by the Home-to-School (HTS) Transportation Reimbursement Plan implemented by Assembly Bill (AB) 181 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2022) and amended by AB 185 (Chapter 571, Statutes of 2022), the following tables demonstrate how transportation services are prioritized for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any grades one through six. The District therefore commits to providing free bus transportation for identified elementary schools and to expand service as capacity permits.



HOME  **SCHOOL**



Policy Statement

1. **Initial Free-Transportation Schools** - NMUSD provides **free to home-to-school bus transportation** for all students attending **Rea, Wilson, Pomona, and Whittier Elementary Schools**. Students who live within the defined no-bus zone (0.75 mile for elementary pupils) [3] will be encouraged to walk or bike unless the route is deemed unsafe by the Transportation Department.
2. **Expanded Free Schools 25/26** - Subject to available bus capacity and funding, free transportation may be expected to continue to **College Park, Killybrooke, Sonora and Adams Elementary Schools**. Expansion decisions will be made after the District evaluates ridership levels for the initial schools and confirms that additional seats, drivers and budget are available.
3. **Equity Focus** – General education priority will be given to Title 1 schools and communities with high percentages of social-economically disadvantaged students. Free transportation will help remove attendance barriers and ensure equal educational opportunity.
4. **Safety and Compliance** - All students riding NMUSD buses must obtain a bus pass. District guidelines require each student to have a pass so drivers know who they are, where they should be dropped off and whether an adult must meet them [4]. Riders shall follow NMUSD's established **Bus Rules of Conduct** and may lose privileges for repeated misconduct.
5. **No-Bus Zone and Walking Distance** - Under current guidelines, elementary students are expected to travel up to **0.75 mile** to the bus stop or to school [5]. Free service under this policy will only be provided beyond this radius unless Transportation determines that safe walking routes are unavailable.



Implementation Guidelines

Eligibility and Enrollment

- **Automatic Eligibility** - All enrolled students at Rea, Wilson, Pomona, Whittier, College Park, Killybrooke, Sonora and Adams who live outside the 0.75-mile no-bus zone are eligible for a free bus pass. Students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) requiring transportation continue to receive special-education transportation per existing law.
- **Application Process** - Families must complete the online Bus Pass Application for each student. NMUSD requires a student ID number and active email address to submit an application [6]. Applications will be processed on a **first-come, first-served basis** [7] until available bus seats are filled. There is no fee for eligible students under this program; however, a **replacement pass fee of \$10** will apply if a pass is lost or modified [8].
- **Consistent Ridership Expectation** - In order to maximize the benefit for those students who require a bus pass, students that obtain a pass are expected to ride the bus on a consistent and continual basis while holding the pass. Should a pass holder miss five (5) days of ridership while in attendance at school, the pass may be revoked so that it can be provided to a different student who requires transportation services.
- **Proof of Residency** - Families must verify their residence address annually. Address changes require documentation and may result in reassignment to a different bus stop or denial if the new address falls within the no-bus zone.
- **Data for Free/Reduced Eligibility** - Although this program waives the fee for the targeted schools, NMUSD will continue to collect household income information when required for state reporting and for students requesting free or reduced transportation outside the targeted schools [9].
- **No Busing for School of Choice**



Route Planning and Stops

- **Bus Stops** - The Transportation Department will design routes and stops based on efficiency, safety and ridership. Bus stops and times may change during the year due to scheduling and ridership adjustments; these changes help control costs and maintain efficiency [\[10\]](#).
- **Travel Distance & Time** – The Transportation Department will try to maintain bus routes to 1 hour or less based on ridership and distance [\[11\]](#). Pick-up and drop-off times may vary if ridership increases or decreases. Parents should ensure children are at their assigned stop at least five minutes before the bus arrives [\[12\]](#).
- **Safety Assessments** - Transportation staff will assess walking routes for hazards (e.g., absence of sidewalks, high-speed traffic, dangerous intersections). Students living inside the no-bus zone may be granted free bus service if a safe walking route is not reasonably available. The transportation staff will work with the City of Costa Mesa on Safe Routes to School.

Code of Conduct and Supervision

- **Behavior Expectations** - Students must follow the [District's Bus Rules of Conduct](#). Rules require students to remain seated, follow driver instructions, refrain from distracting behavior, and treat others with respect. Violations may result in warnings, suspension of riding privileges, or removal from the program.
- **Parent/Guardian Responsibilities** - Parents/guardians must ensure students arrive at bus stops on time and adhere to safety guidelines. For younger students (Grades 3 & under) requiring an adult to meet them, the bus driver will only release the child to a designated adult whose name is on file [\[4\]](#) listed in Aeries.



Funding and Budgeting

- **Waiver of Fees** - The current fee schedule charges \$360 for an annual round-trip bus pass and \$190 for an annual one-way pass [[13](#)]. Under this policy, these fees will be **waived** for eligible students at the designated schools. Funding for this program may come from the District's transportation budget, Title 1 funds, state transportation allocations, local grants or partnerships.
- **Cost Control** - The Transportation Department will monitor ridership and adjust routes to maintain efficiency. Bus stops and schedules are subject to change to control costs and ensure buses operate near capacity [[10](#)].
- **Evaluation for Expansion** - After the first year, Transportation will provide the Board of Education with data on ridership and capacity. If capacity remains available and funding permits, the Board may authorize the addition of College Park, Killybrooke, Sonora and Adams Elementary schools to the free transportation program.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Annual Review** - Transportation staff will present an annual report to the Board of Education summarizing the program's performance, including participation rates, ridership by stop, and budget impacts.
- **Equitable Expansion Criteria** - Expansion to additional schools will be based on objective factors such as student socio-economic need, distance to school, availability of safe walking/biking routes, and bus capacity. Schools not included in the initial or expansion phases may still access existing free/reduced transportation programs through the Supplemental Income Form process [[14](#)].

Communications Plan

- NMUSD will communicate the new policy through district and school websites, and social media. Enrollment information, application deadlines, bus schedules and stop locations will be posted online.



- The District will remind drivers and the community about school bus safety laws. Messaging will emphasize that school buses are among the safest vehicles and that drivers must stop when red lights flash [15].

Conclusion

By providing free bus transportation to students at Rea, Wilson, Pomona and Whittier Elementary Schools and expanded service to College Park, Killybrooke, Sonora and Adams Elementary Schools, Newport-Mesa USD demonstrates its commitment to safety, equity and student success. This policy will remove financial barriers, reduce traffic congestion near schools and support consistent attendance. Its phased implementation and data-driven evaluation will ensure that service remains efficient and sustainable.

[1] [12] [15] **School Bus Safety / Bus Stops, Drivers / NHTSA**

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety>

[2] **School Bus Safety**

<https://www.ncsl.org/transportation/school-bus-safety>

[3] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [13] **Bus Passes – Newport-Mesa Unified School District**

<https://web.nmusd.us/departments/business-services/transportation/bus-passes>

[4] [5] [14] **Transportation Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions - Newport-Mesa Unified School District**

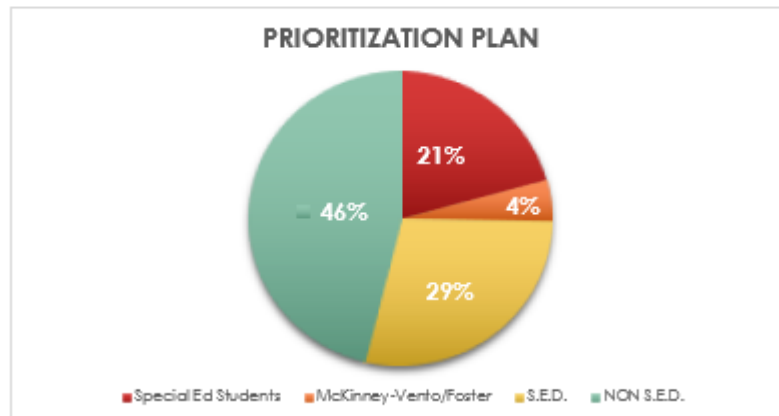
<https://web.nmusd.us/departments/business-services/transportation/transportation-guidelines-and-frequently-asked-questions>



HOME-TO-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIZATION PLAN

24-25 Total Ridership: 1,740

25-26 Total Ridership: 1,509



Priority #1

SPECIAL ED STUDENTS		
TOTAL RIDERS	362	21%

Priority #2

MCKINNEY-VENTO/FOSTER		
TOTAL RIDERS	78	4%

Priority #3

GEN ED SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED		
TOTAL RIDERS	497	29%
25-26 Total Riders	708	47%

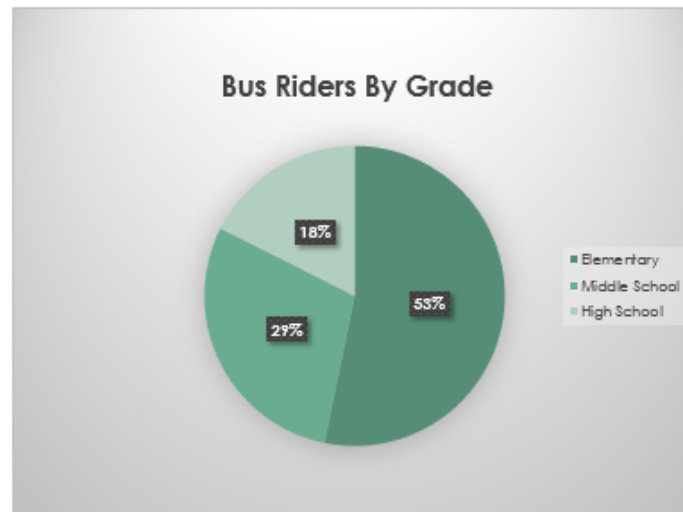
Priority #4

GEN ED NON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED		
TOTAL RIDERS	803	46%
25-26 Total Riders	492	33%

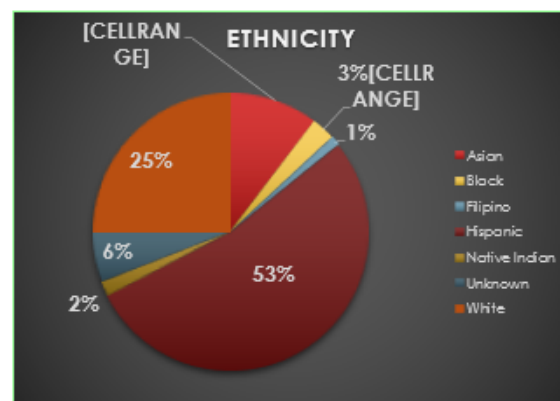


HOME-TO-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIZATION PLAN

BUS RIDERS BY GRADE		
GRADE	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
Elementary	926	53%
Middle School	508	29%
High School	306	18%
	1,740	100%



ETHNICITY		
ETHNICITY	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
Asian	180	10%
Black	48	3%
Filipino	19	1%
Hispanic	927	53%
Native Indian	30	2%
Unknown	101	6%
White	435	25%
TOTAL RIDERS	1,740	100%





FEE SCHEDULE

Because the cost of providing student transportation exceeds funding provided by the state, it is necessary to charge fees for HTS student transportation. Changes to fee schedules are approved by the Board of Education and determined based on operating costs in accordance with law.

Current HTS rates were authorized by the Board of Education on August 25, 2015.

Annual Bus Pass:

Bus Pass Type	Round Trip	One Way
Unmodified Rate	\$360	\$190
Reduced Rate	\$180	\$95

Semester Bus Pass:

Bus Pass Type	Round Trip	One Way
Unmodified Rate	\$190	\$100
Reduced Rate	\$95	\$50

3rd Sibling Annual Discount:

Bus Pass Type	Round Trip	One Way
Unmodified Rate	\$180	\$95
Reduced Rate	\$90	\$47.50

3rd Sibling Semester Discount:

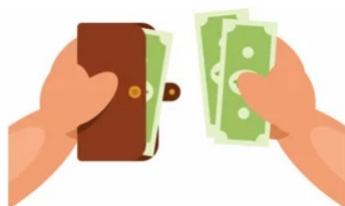
Bus Pass Type	Round Trip	One Way
Unmodified Rate	\$95	\$50
Reduced Rate	\$47.50	\$25

The 4th or More Siblings:

FREE

Free Bus Pass:

Special Ed	McKinney-Vento	Gen Ed Socio-Economic Disadvantaged	Rea/Whittier/Wilson
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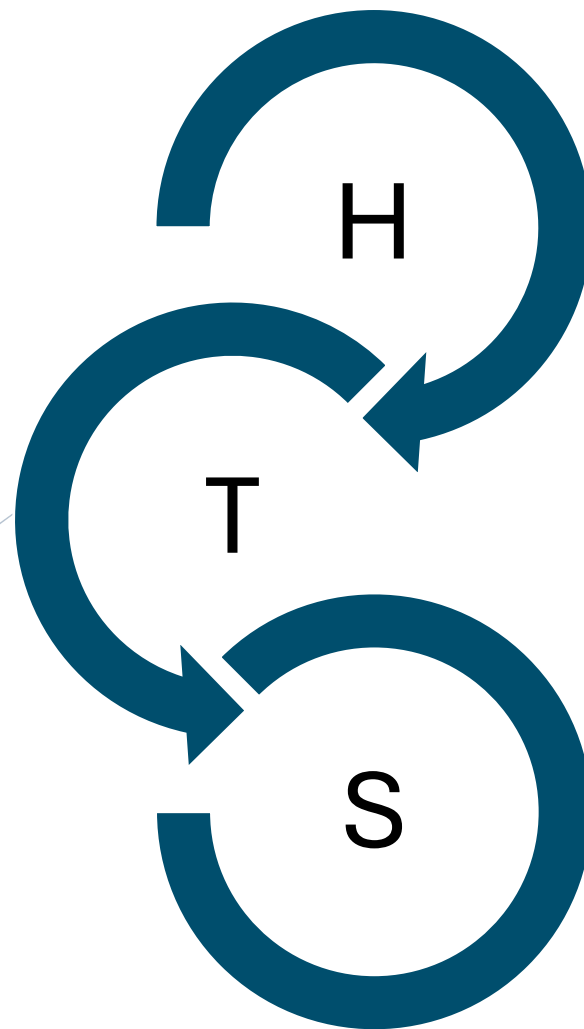
BUS PASS FEE COMPARISON

BUS PASS PRICES	NMUSD	IUSD	PYLUSD	OUSD	LBUSD (Laguna)	CUSD	HBC	SBUSD	HBU	SAUSD
Annual Round Trip	\$360.00	\$ 562.00	\$ 396.00	\$ 335.00	\$460.00	\$ 575.00	\$ 508.00	\$600.00	NO GE	NO GE
Annual One Way	\$190.00	\$ 281.00	\$ 198.00	\$ 225.00	\$230.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual Reduced Round Trip	\$180.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$300.00	N/A	\$300.00	N/A	N/A
Annual Reduced One Way	\$95.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Semester Round Trip	\$190.00	N/A	\$ 198.00	\$ 215.00	N/A	N/A	\$ 254.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Semester One Way	\$100.00	N/A	\$ 99.00	\$ 165.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Semester Reduced Round Trip	\$95.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Semester Reduced One Way	\$50.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3rd Sibling Annual Round Trip	\$180.00	\$ 281.00	\$ 198.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3rd Sibling Annual One Way	\$95.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 99.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3rd Sibling Semester Round Trip	\$95.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3rd Sibling Semester One Way	\$50.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3rd Sibling Reduced Annual Round Trip	\$90.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3rd Sibling Reduced Annual One Way	\$47.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3rd Sibling Reduced Semester Round Trip	\$47.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3rd Sibling Reduced Semester One way	\$25.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4 or more Siblings Round Trip	Free	\$ 29.00	Free	N/A	Free	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4 or more Siblings One Way	Free	\$ 14.50	Free	N/A	Free	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mileage Criteria	NMUSD	IUSD	PYLUSD	OUSD	LBUSD (Laguna)	CUSD	HBC	SBUSD	HBU	SAUSD
Elementary	0.75	1.5	1.75	1	1.5	1	0.75	1.5	N/A	N/A
Middle	1.5	2.5	2.25	2.5	2.5	2.5	N/A	2.5	N/A	N/A
High School	2	3	3.25	3	3	2.5	N/A	3.5	N/A	N/A



Newport-Mesa
Unified School District

Original Home-To-School Transportation Plan



Shelley Humphrey, Director, Transportation
NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

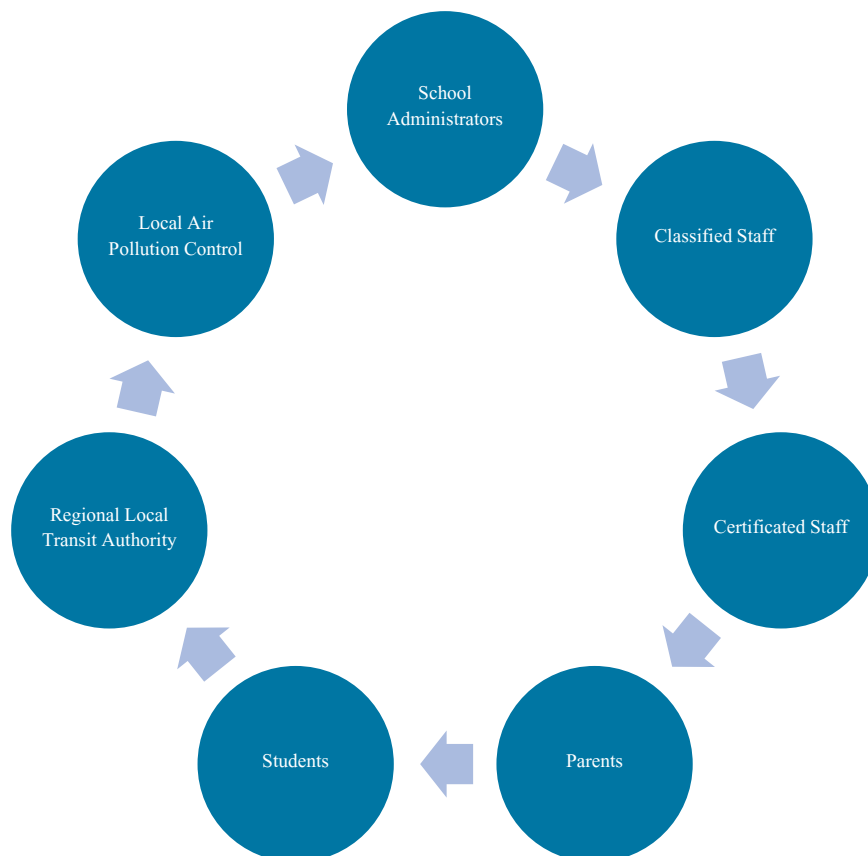


Original Home-To-School Transportation Plan

Introduction

Assembly Bill (AB) 181 requires school districts providing home-to-school transportation (HTS) to adopt a plan before April 1, 2023. This Transportation Plan was developed in accordance with Education Code Section 39800.1 and 41850.1 and was board approved on March 28, 2023.

NMUSD developed this plan in consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts, air quality management districts, parents, pupils, and other stakeholders.





Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

The plan also includes the following:

- A description of how no cost service is offered to pupils with disabilities and homeless children and youth, as defined by McKinney-Vento.
- A description of how low-income pupils can access available HTS transportation at reduced or no cost.

This plan is posted on the district's website: www.nmusd.us/transportation

Description of NMUSD Transportation Offerings

NMUSD offers transportation services to qualified students for HTS transportation and curricular, extra-curricular and athletic activities. The district communicates to families regarding transportation services through email and the application process is posted on the website. Families are encouraged to apply early.

Prioritizing TK - 6th, McKinney -Vento, Foster Youth, and Low-Income Student Service

NMUSD prioritizes Transitional Kindergarten thru 6th grade, McKinney-Vento (MKV), foster youth, and low-income students in the following manner:

- Open bus pass applications to all qualifying schools prior to the start of the new school year.
- Use established eligibility scales (Federal Poverty guidelines) to offer free and reduced bus passes to those who qualify. No charge shall be made for any transportation of students whose parents/guardians are determined indigent pursuant to board policy 3250. Refer to Addendum #19.
- Work with Social Services and Foster Youth liaison to ensure requests are in the best interest of students.
 - Work directly with liaison to determine most appropriate mode of transportation.
 - Liaison will work with Social Services and new home district to split the cost with NMUSD.
- Work with the MKV liaison to ensure barriers are removed for MKV families.
 - Provide bus passes to MKV students within NMUSD boundaries.
 - Set up OCTA bus passes or car services for students living outside of NMUSD boundaries.
- Utilize OCTA Youth Ride Free bus passes.
 - Provide free OCTA bus passes to all students who request them.

MKV students receive transportation at the same level as other General Education students to remain at their school of origin. MKV transportation is provided at no cost.

NMUSD offers three Title 1 schools free transportation: Whittier, Rea, and Wilson.



Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Routes are assessed for historical data (ridership) to determine maximum capacity of bus routes to ensure TK-6th prioritization.

Special Ed Transportation Services

NMUSD offers transportation services in the least restrictive environment to all pupils with disabilities that meet the criteria for severely disabled and/or non-ambulatory. Transportation for students with special needs ages 3-22 is provided through their Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan at no cost.

In addition, the educational program for special needs students is supported by transportation's Community Based Instruction (CBI) trips. This program takes the district's special needs students to various venues around the community to further develop life skills.

General Education Services

NMUSD currently offers General Education HTS transportation based on grade, distance, safety, and walk zone parameters. The district also provides transportation for activity trips (curricular, extra-curricular and athletic).

General Education fee-based transportation services may be provided for students who live within their home school boundary and outside the non-transportation radius area (walk zone). Non-transportation radius area will be measured in radius fashion, straight-line distance from each school site. Special circumstances or hazards are evaluated to ensure students have a safe walking path to school. Safe walking paths are communicated at the school site level for students residing within walk zones and are illustrated in Addendum #1-15.

School	Grade	Mileage Radius
Elementary	K-6	0.75
Middle School	7-8	1.5
High School	9-12	2

The number of drivers and fleet operated by the district is limited. Routes are established in a manner that aligns to the district's transportation capacity. Consequently, sufficient riders must exist to justify routes.

Bus stops are audited and consolidated bi-annually to ensure routes remain productive and maximize district-wide ridership.



Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Safe Routes to School

NMUSD has partnered with Safe Routes to encourage building healthy lifestyles and to ensure all students have safe routes to school, reference Addendum #1-15 for additional information. NMUSD has all Costa Mesa safe walking maps posted on each individual school site.





Newport-Mesa
Unified School District



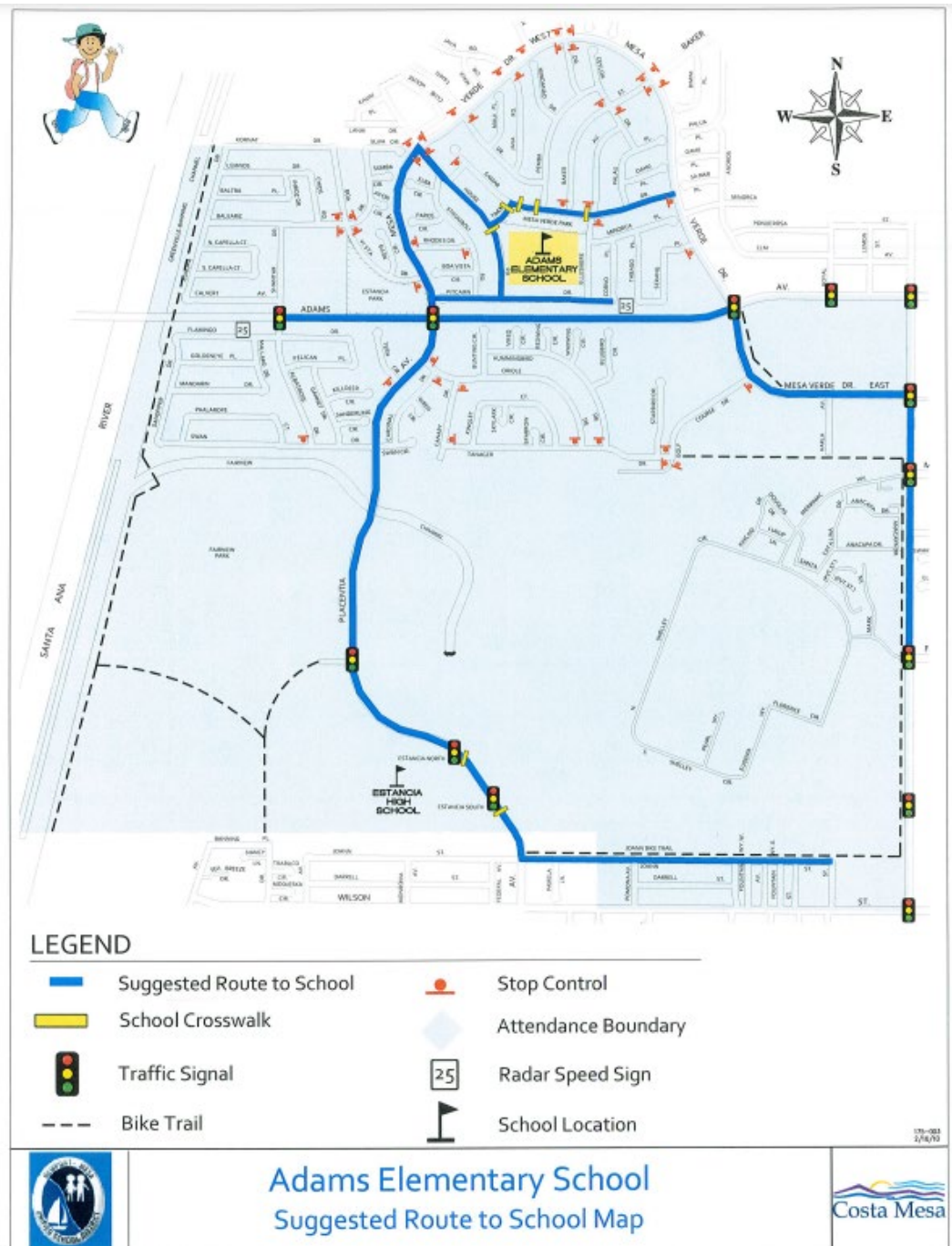


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Adams Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #1

[City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Adams Elementary](#)



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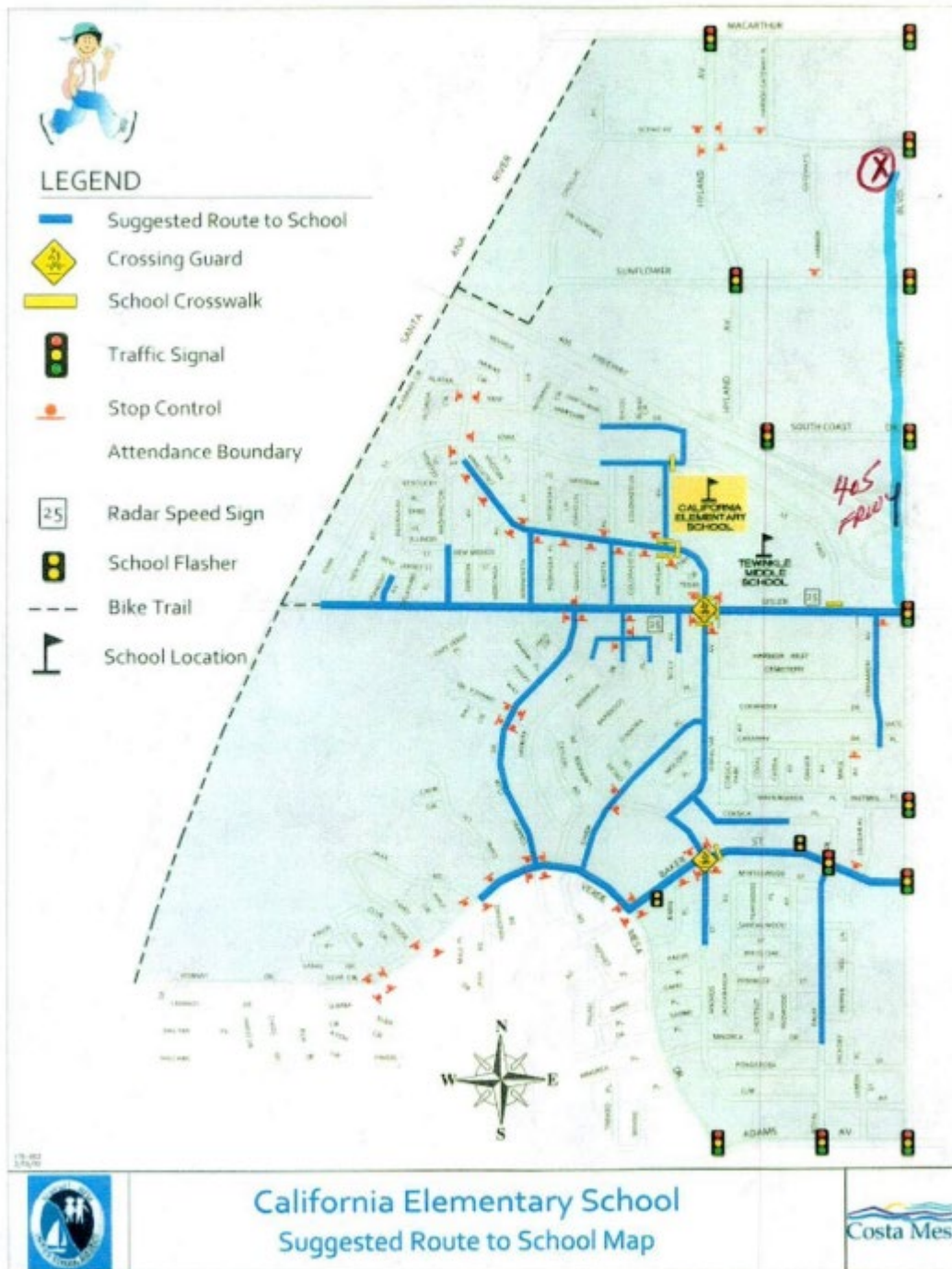


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

California Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #2 – (Updated 3.25.24)

[City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map - California Elementary](#)





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Unified School District

College Park Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #3 - (Updated 3.25.24)

[City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – College Park Elementary.](#)



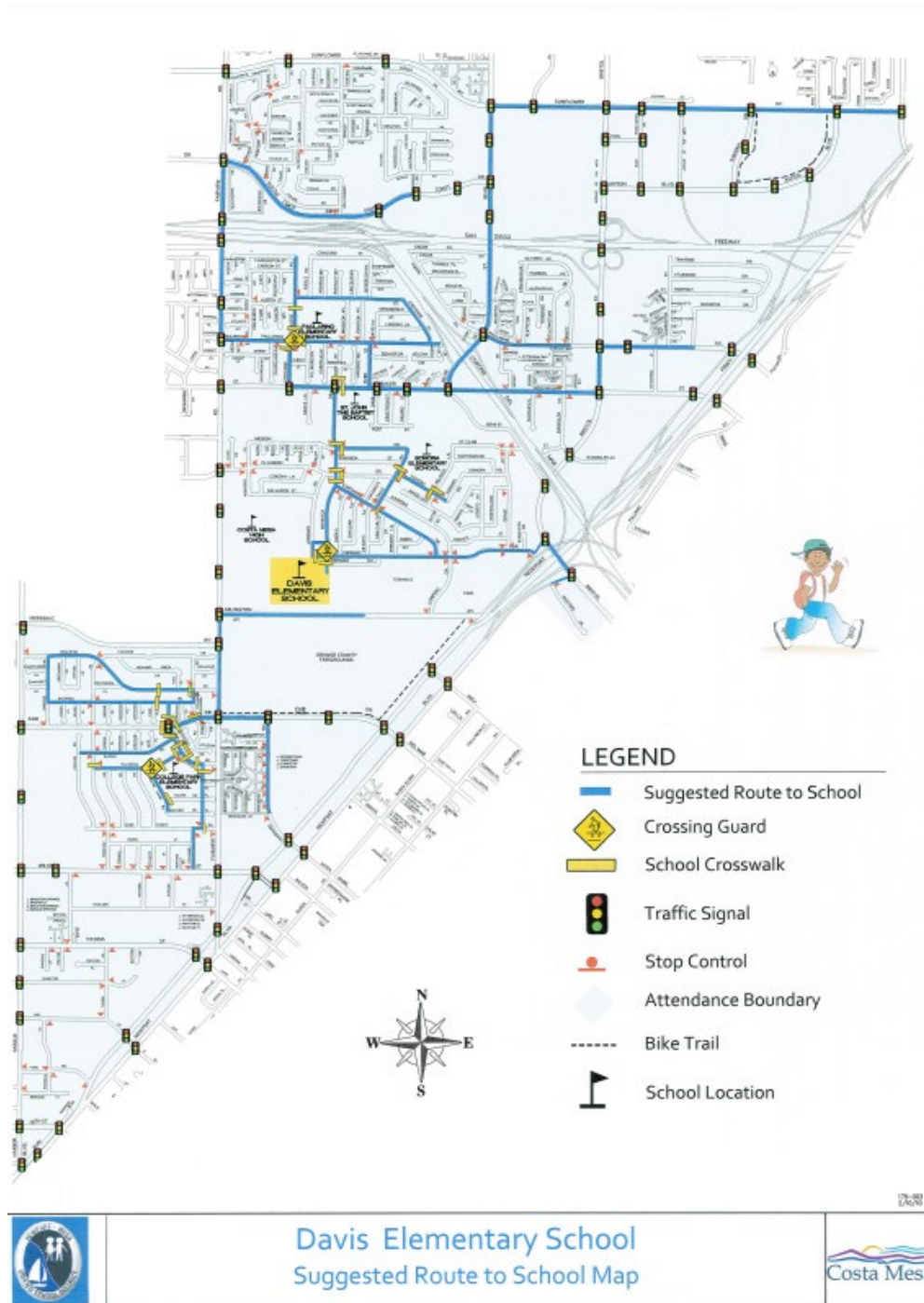


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Davis Magnet Route to School Map – Addendum #4

[City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Davis Elementary](#)





Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Ensign Middle School Route to School Map – Addendum #5

[City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Ensign Middle School](#)



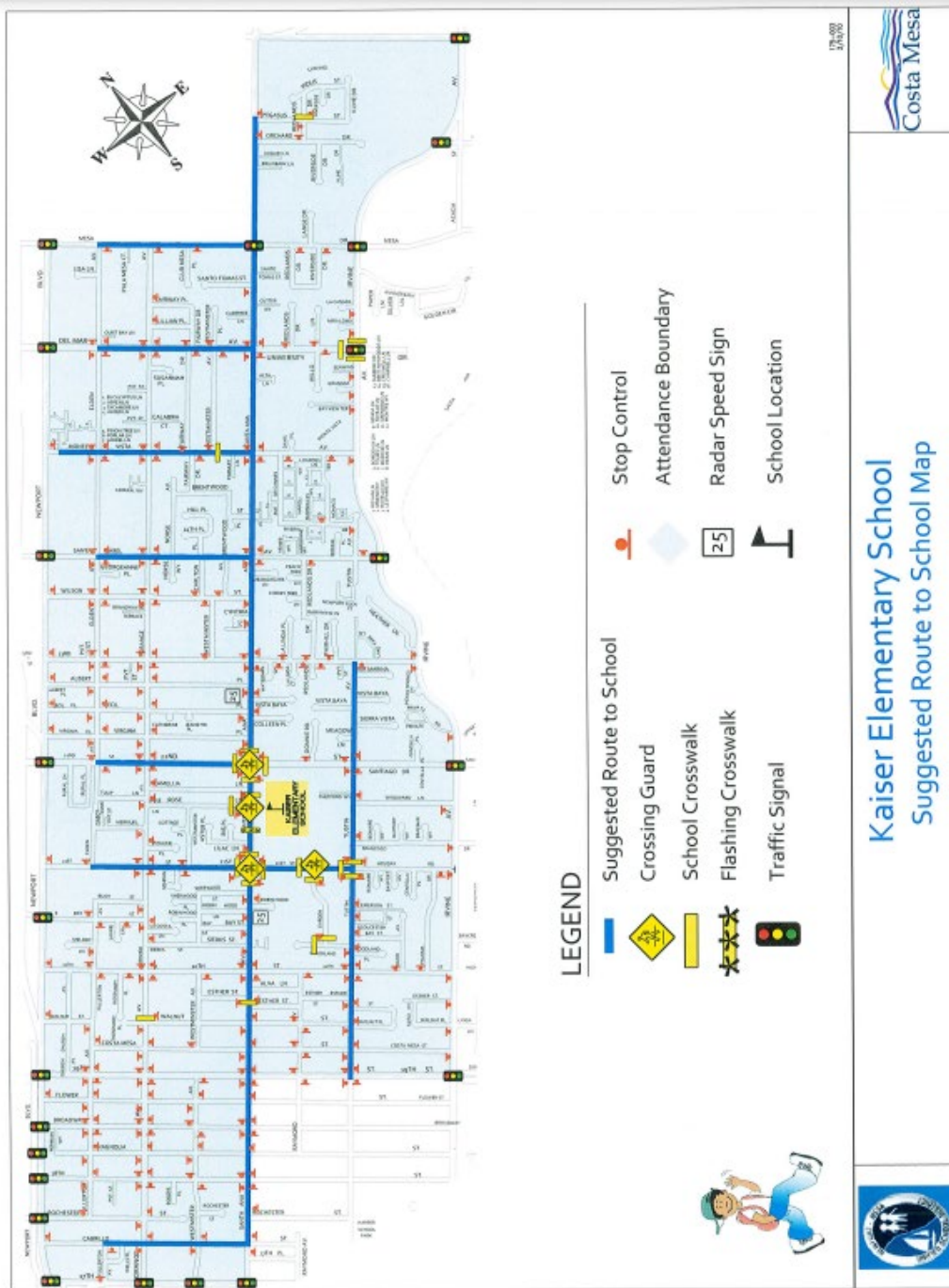


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Kaiser Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #6

City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Kaiser Elementary



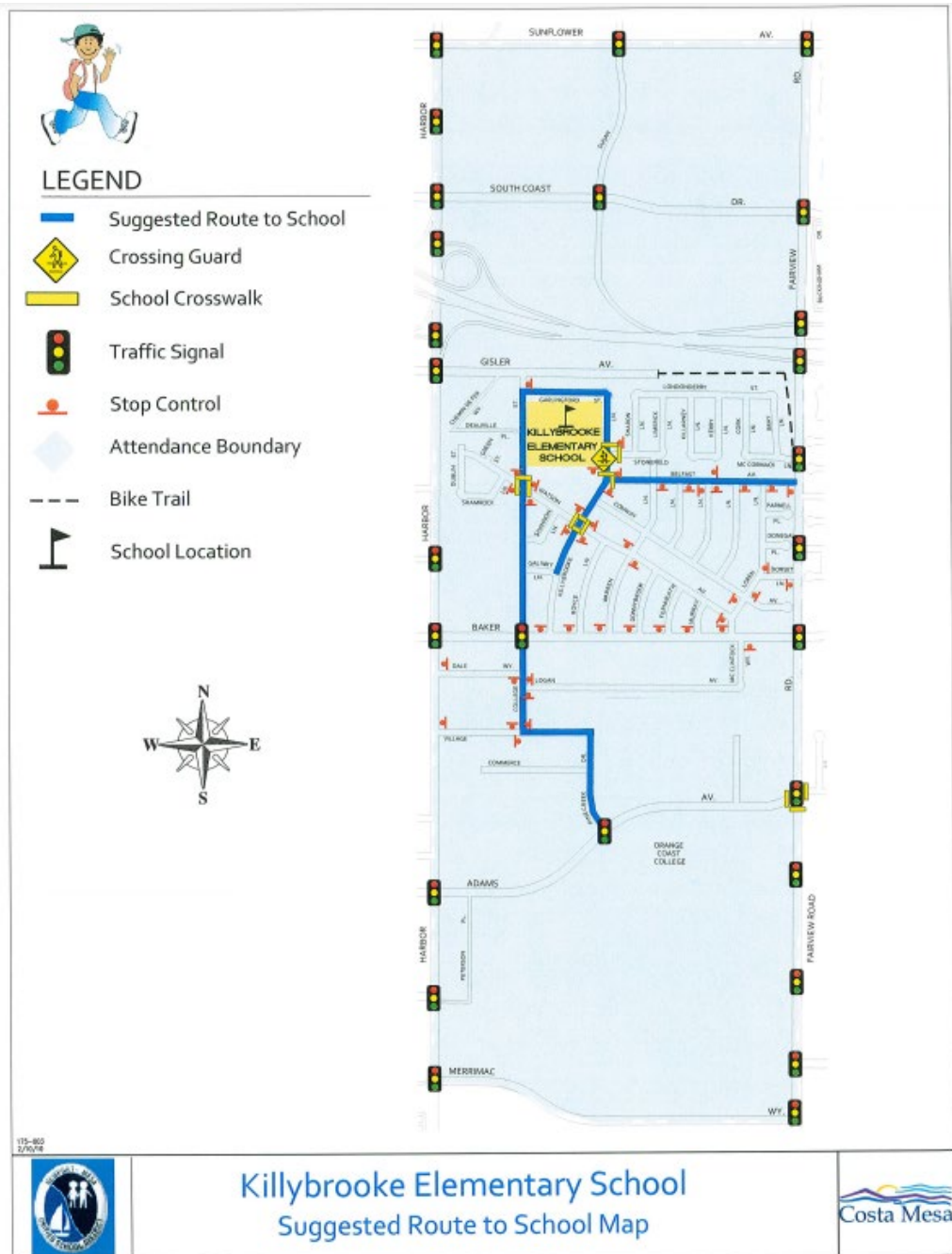


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Killybrooke Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #7

City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Killybrooke Elementary



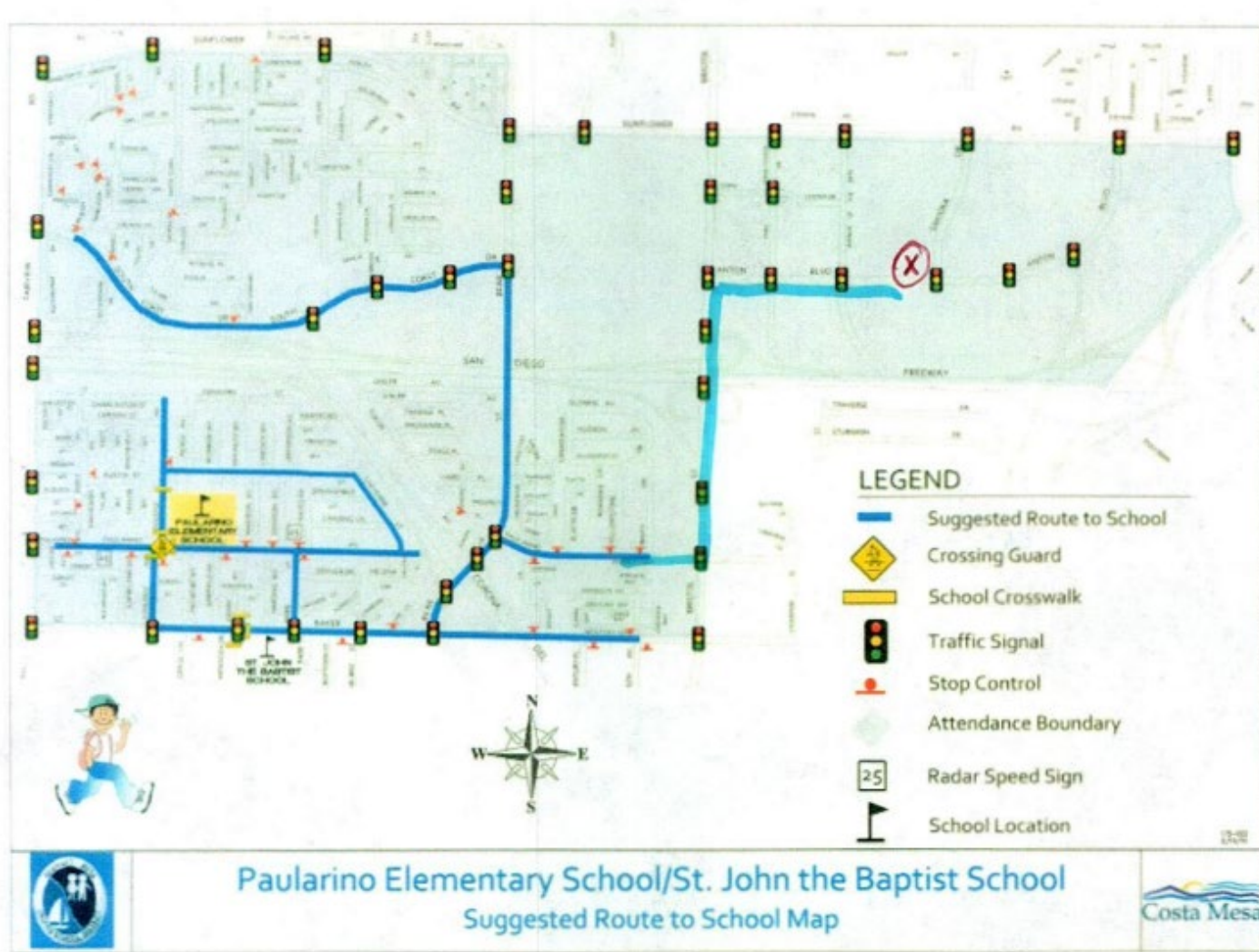


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Paularino Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #8 – (Updated 3.25.24)

[City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Paularino Elementary](#)



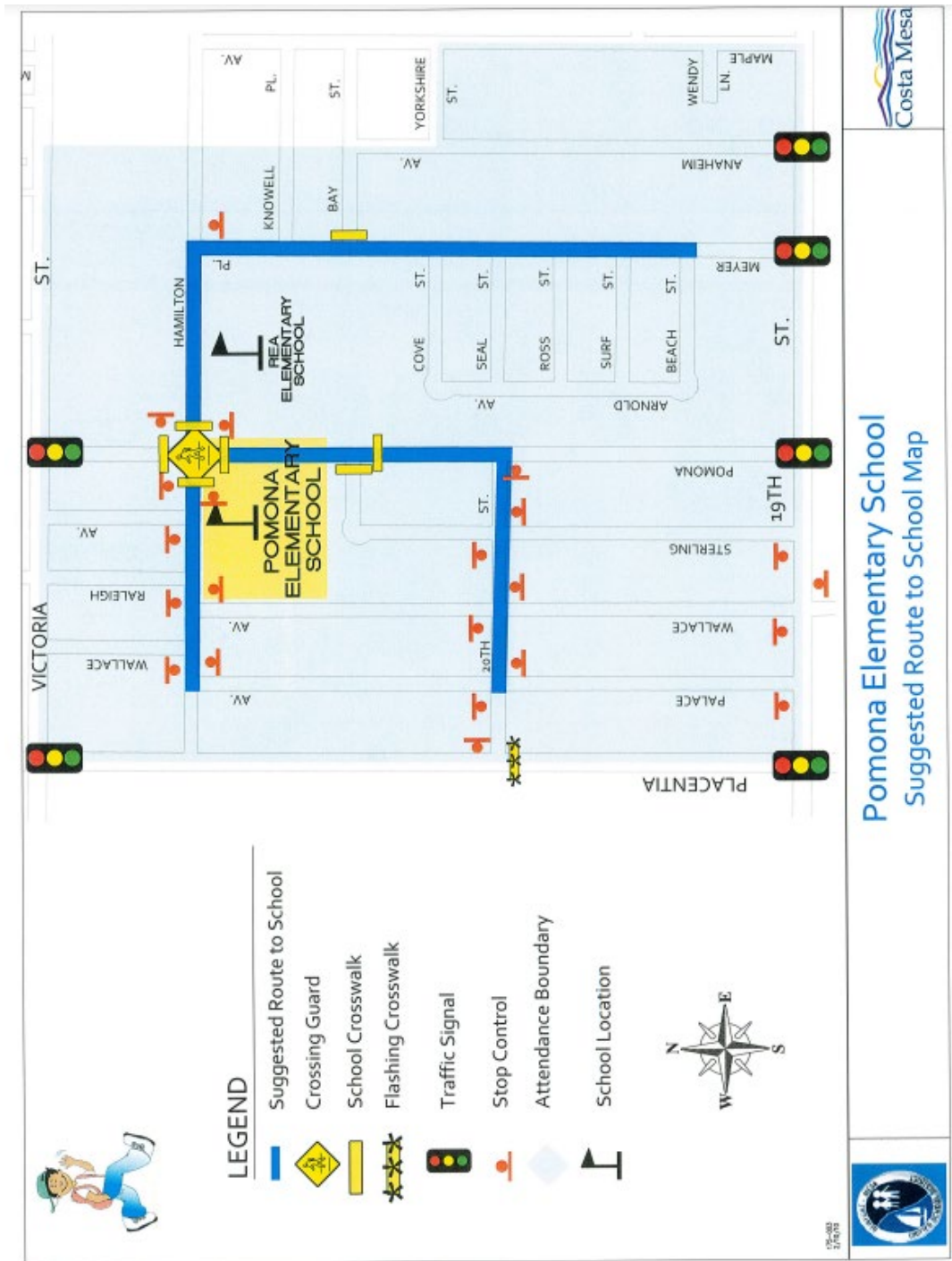


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Pomona Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #9

City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Pomona Elementary



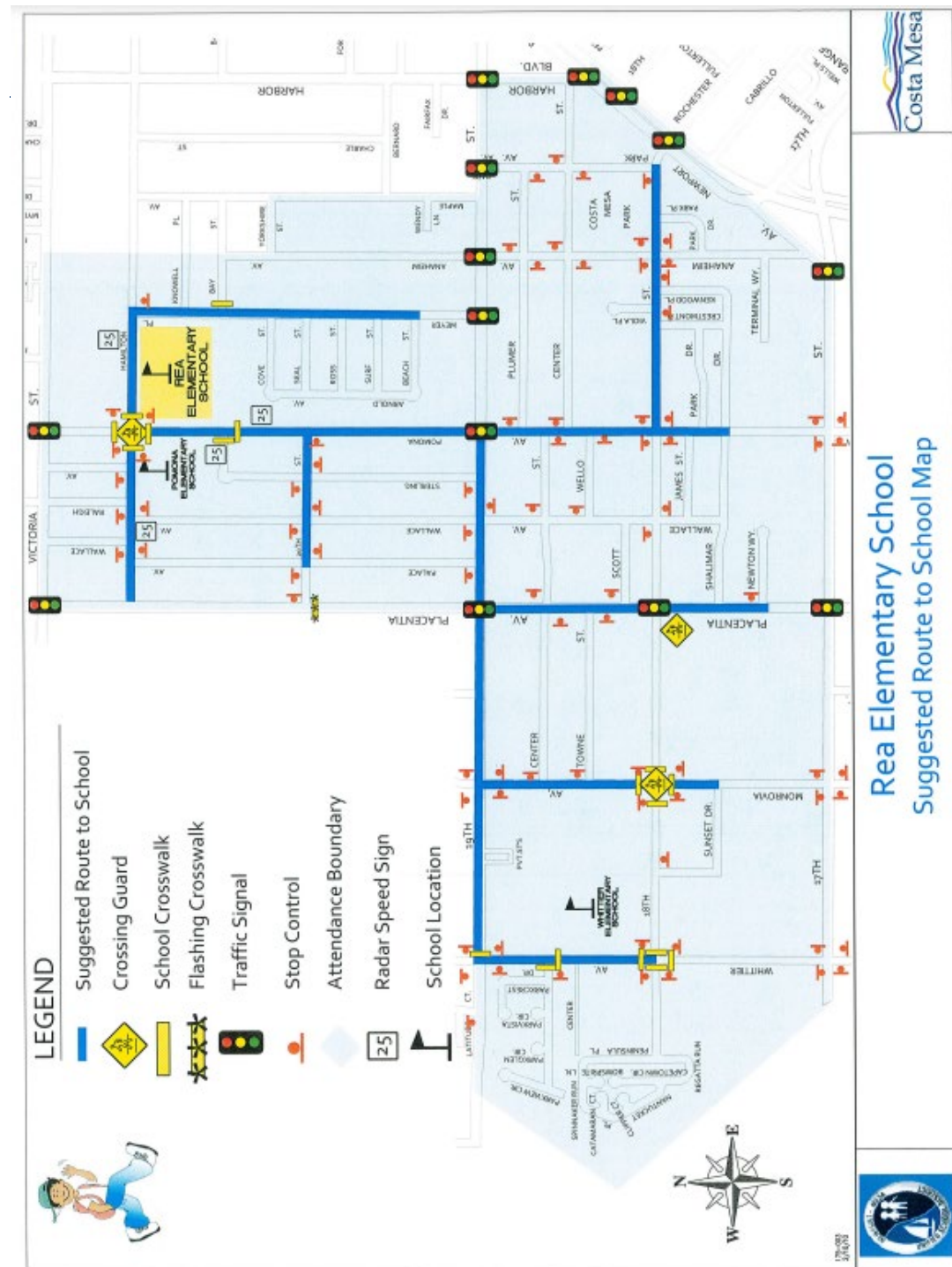


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Rea Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #10

City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Rea Elementary



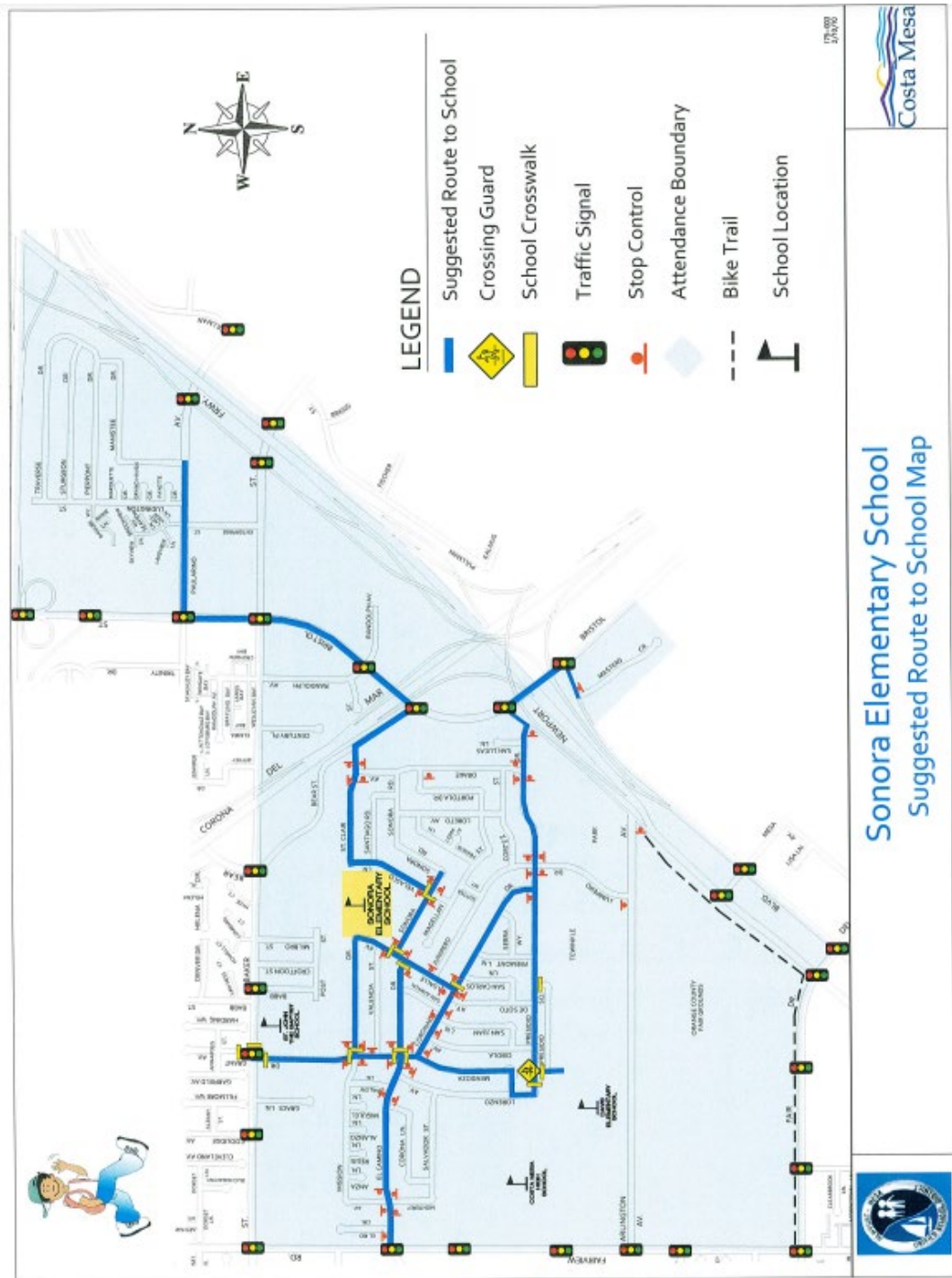


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Sonora Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #11

City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Sonora Elementary



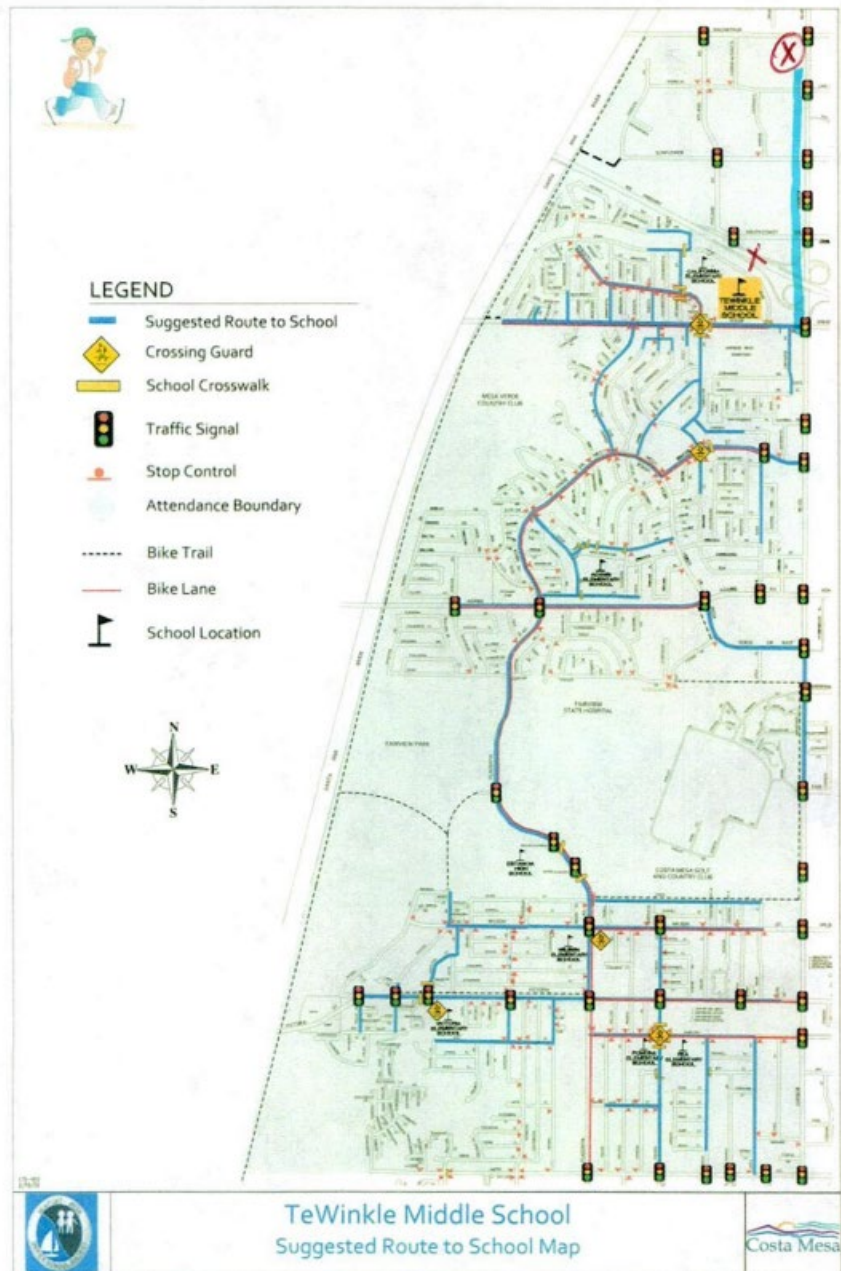


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Tewinkle Middle School Route to School Map – Addendum #12 – (Updated 3.25.24)

[City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – TeWinkle Middle School.](#)



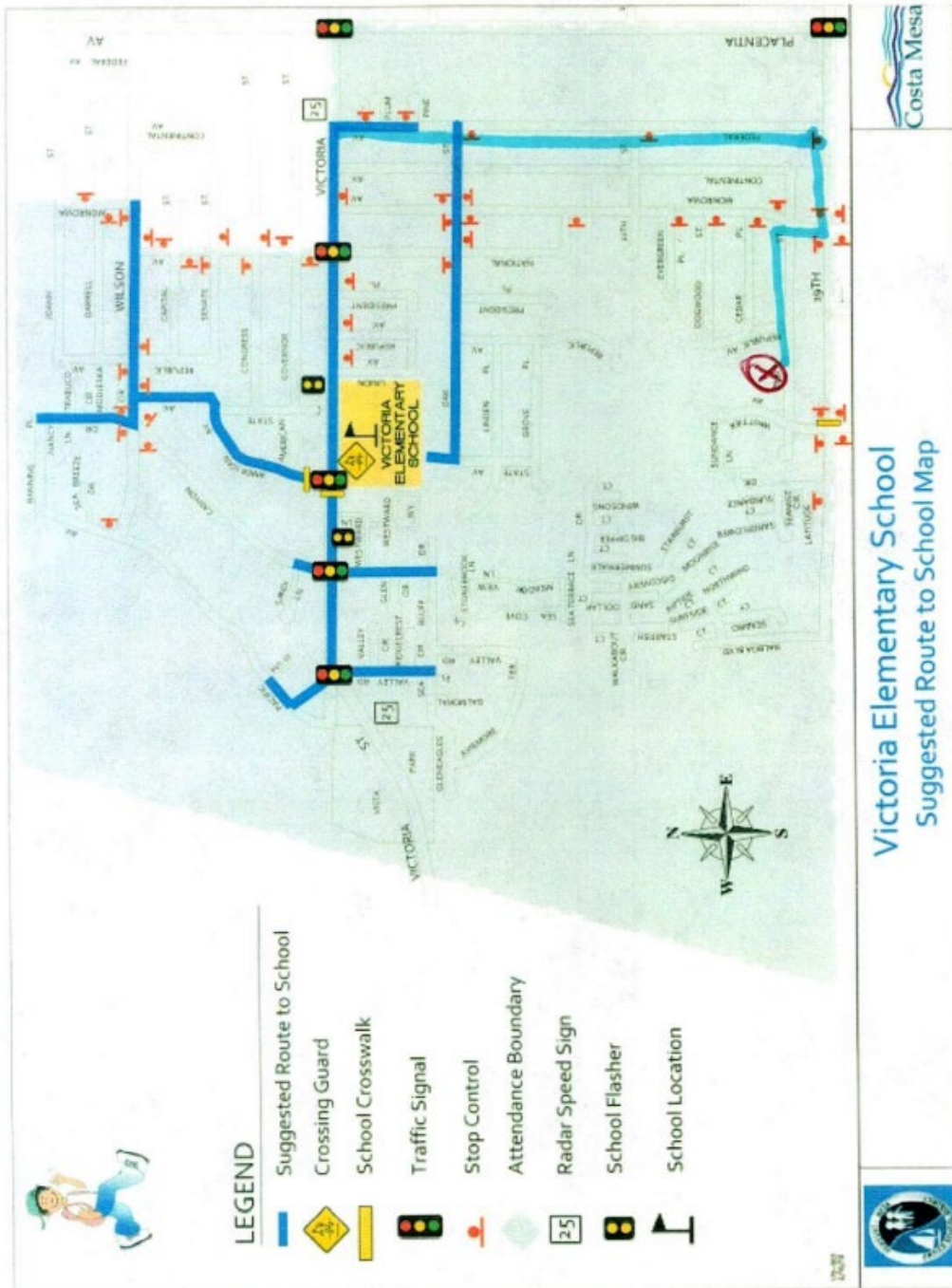


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

Victoria Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #13 – (Updated 3.25.24)

[City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Victoria Elementary](#)



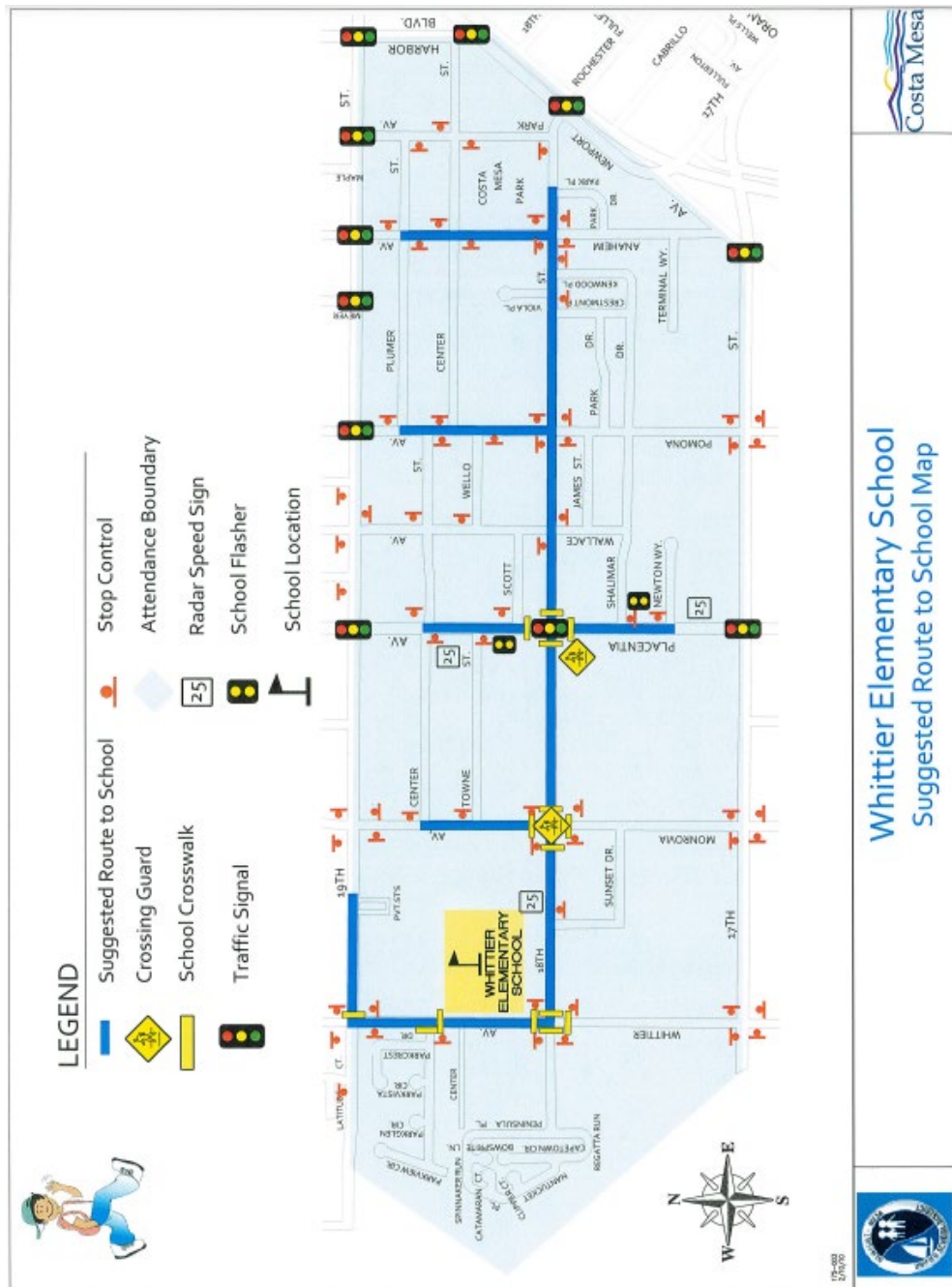


Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

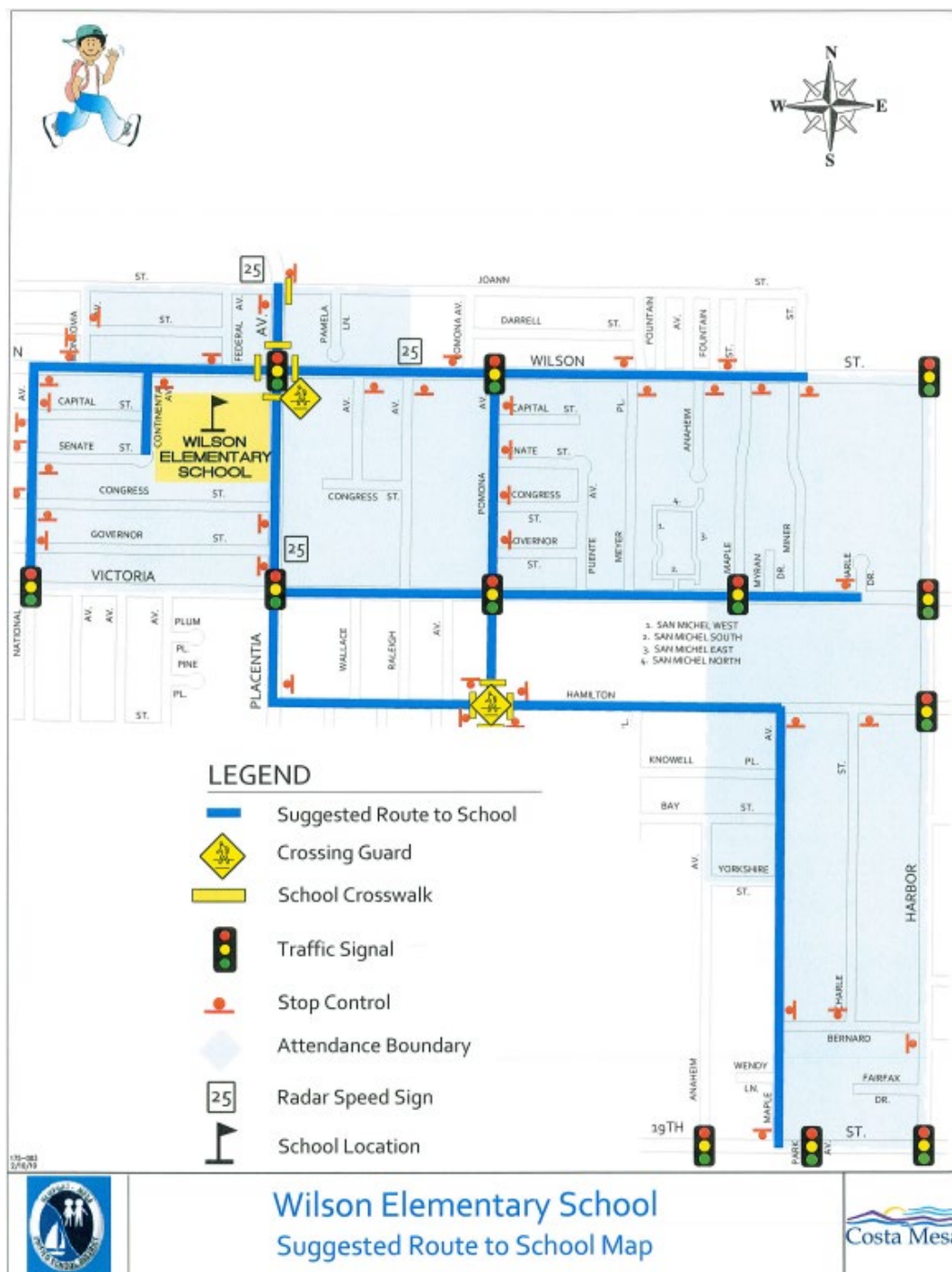
Whittier Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #14

City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Whittier Elementary





City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Wilson Elementary



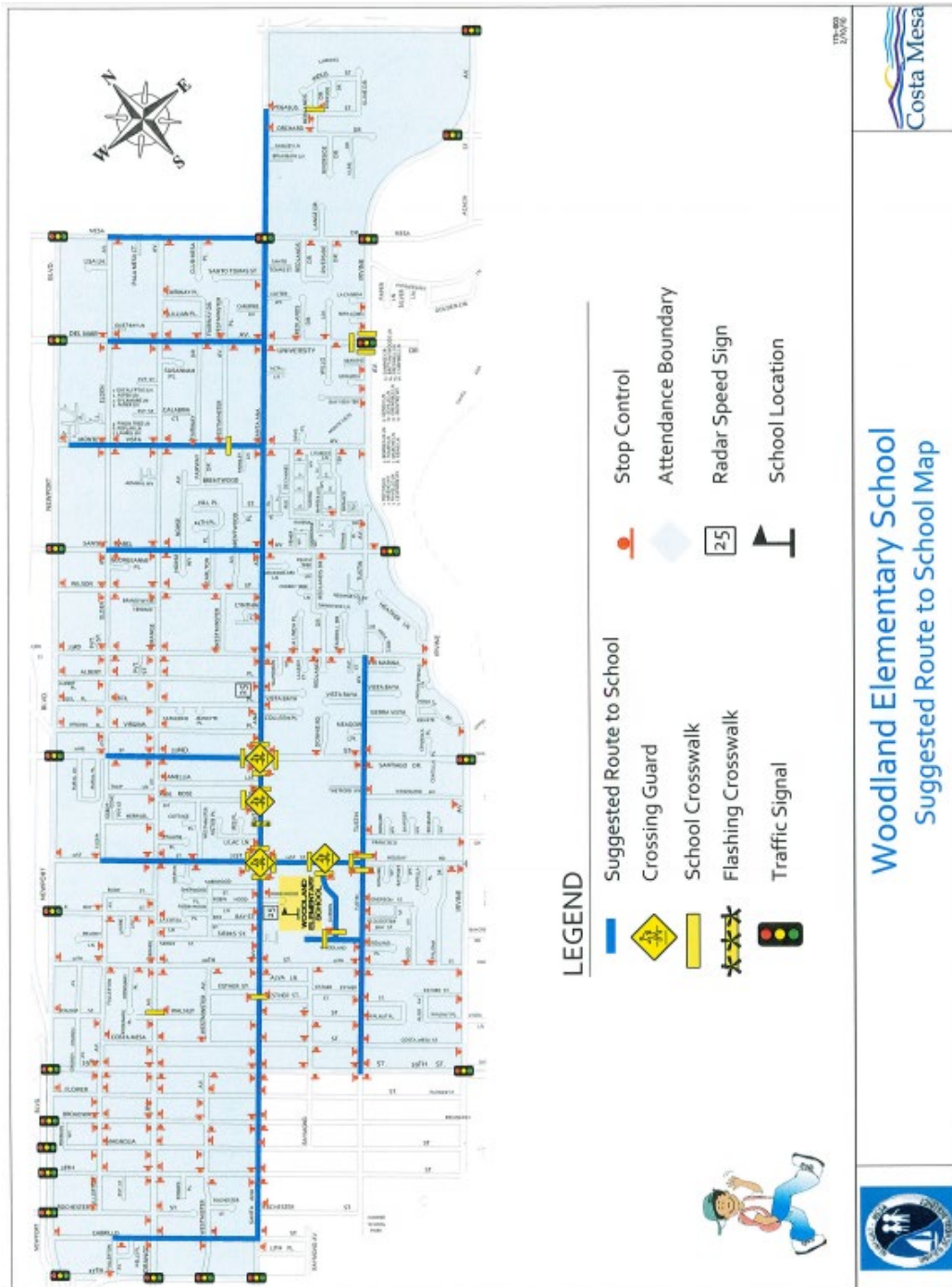


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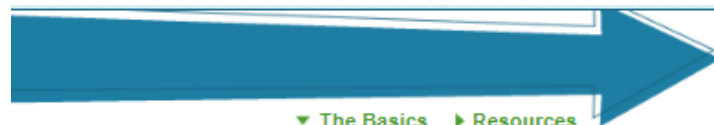
Woodland Elementary Route to School Map – Addendum #16

City of Costa Mesa Suggested Route to School Map – Woodland Elementary.





Benefits of Walking to School - Addendum #16



Starting a Walking School Bus

The Basics

[Click here to download this guide as a printable PDF.](#)

Why develop a walking school bus?

Studies show that fewer children are walking and biking to school, and more children are at risk of becoming overweight. Changing behaviors of children and parents require creative solutions that are safe and fun.

Implementing a walking school bus can be both.

What is a walking school bus?

A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. If that sounds simple, it is, and that's part of the beauty of the walking school bus. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school to as structured as a route with meeting points, a timetable and a regularly rotated schedule of trained volunteers.

A variation on the walking school bus is the bicycle train, in which adults supervise children riding their bikes to school. The flexibility of the walking school bus makes it appealing to communities of all sizes with varying needs.



Parents often cite safety issues as one of the primary reasons they are reluctant to allow their children to walk to school. Providing adult supervision may help reduce those worries for families who live within walking or bicycling distance to school.

Starting simple

When beginning a walking school bus, remember that the program can always grow. It often makes sense to start with a small bus and see how it works. Pick a single neighborhood that has a group of parents and children

who are interested. It's like a carpool—without the car—with the added benefits of exercise and visits with friends and neighbors. For an informal bus:

1. Invite families who live nearby to walk.
2. Pick a route and take a test walk.
3. Decide how often the group will walk together.
4. Have fun!





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Reaching more children

Success with a simple walking school bus or a desire to be more inclusive may inspire a community to build a more structured program. This may include more routes, more days of walking and more children. Such programs require coordination, volunteers and potential attention to other issues, such as safety training and liability. The school principal and administration, law enforcement and other community leaders will likely be involved.

First, determine the amount of interest in a walking school bus program. Contact potential participants and partners:

- Parents and children
- Principal and school officials
- Law enforcement officers
- Other community leaders

Second, identify the route(s).

- The amount of interest will determine the number of walking routes.
- Walk the route(s) without children first.

Third, identify a sufficient number of adults to supervise walkers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend one adult for every six children. If children are age 10 or older, fewer adults may be needed. If children are ages 4 to 6, one adult per three children is recommended.

Next, finalize the logistical details.

- Who will participate?
- How often will the walking school bus operate? Will the bus operate once a week or every day?
- When do children meet the bus? It's important to allow enough time for the slower pace of children, but also to ensure that everyone arrives at school on time.
- Where will the bus meet children—at each child's home or at a few meeting spots?
- Will the bus operate after school?
- What training do volunteers need?
- What safety training do children need? Visit [Resources](#).

Finally, kick-off the program.

A good time to begin is on [International Walk to School Day](#). Walk and look for ways to encourage more children and families to be involved. Have fun!

→ **When picking a route, answer these four questions:**

- 1 Do you have room to walk?**
Are there sidewalks and paths?
Is there too much traffic?
- 2 Is it easy to cross the street?**
- 3 Do drivers behave well?**
Do they yield to walkers?
Do they speed?
- 4 Does the environment feel safe?**
Are there loose dogs?
Is there criminal activity?

For more help identifying walkable routes, use the [Walkability Checklist](#).



Crossing Guards – City Controlled/Partnered with NMUSD – Addendum #17

The Role of the Adult School Crossing Guard

The primary responsibility of an adult school crossing guard is to help children safely cross the street as they walk or bicycle to and from school.

A well-trained adult school crossing guard can help to accomplish the following goals:

- Discourage children from behaving unsafely near traffic, such as darting into the street without looking or crossing against a traffic signal. A guard can encourage safe behavior by all pedestrians at the school crossing.
- Use existing gaps in traffic to help students cross safely. When the natural traffic flow does not allow enough time for children to safely cross a street, a guard may need to create gaps by stopping traffic temporarily. The guard stops traffic with hand signals or a STOP paddle, then verbally directs children to cross the street. A guard is always the first person in the street and the last person out of the street.
- Alert motorists that pedestrians are in the process of using the school crossing.
- Observe and report any incidents or conditions that present a potential safety hazard to the school children or the guard.

An adult school crossing guard should not direct traffic unless specifically trained as a traffic control officer.

Adult School Crossing Guards are Eyes on the Street for:

- Unsafe driver behaviors
- Unsafe pedestrian behaviors
- Unlawful parking
- Construction interfering with safe crossing
- Unsafe street conditions
- Damaged signs
- Poor visibility
- Suspicious activity
- Improper or lack of safety belt or bicycle helmet use





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General Information – Addendum #18





California Department of Education Update-Assembly Bill (AB) 181

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 office of education based on the prior year eligible transportation expenditures and prior year Local Control Funding Formula transportation related add-on funding.

California Education Code (EC) Section 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 1st each year thereafter.

State Numbers

California has 977 School Districts which operate over 9 thousand schools with pupil enrollment of close to 5.5 million students. Relatively few students ride the bus statewide however, the districts with higher ridership numbers tend to be districts with smaller enrollment numbers, and in more rural areas.

School bus ridership has been declining since the late 1970's. The numbers have dropped from around one in four to one in eight riders. As California has become more urbanized, people live closer to school sites, in addition, more people own cars, and have other means to get their students to school. Most Gen Ed ridership in California comes from rural districts and ones that are geographically isolated.

How California's Students Get to School

Although the numbers can vary, less than 9% of California students ride the bus to school. Most ride in private cars 68%, 18% walk, 10% ride a bike, and the other 4% have other means.

Legal Status General Education

In the state of California Gen Ed transportation is not required by law. Gen Ed busing is not required as part of a free public education:

- *Arcadia Unified School District et al v. State Department of Education, 2 Cal. 4th 251 (1992)*



Legal Status Special Education

Special Ed - 34 CFR Section 300.34 defines transportation as a *related service*, and stresses that transportation is one element in determining a “free appropriate, public education” (FAPE) for a student with disabilities.

The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA)* conveys to the IEP team the authority to determine if transportation is necessary for a student to receive FAPE. In making this determination the IEP team must consider: (1) the needs of the student; and (2) the least restrictive form of transportation appropriate for the student.

Legal Status McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento (MKV) Homeless Assistance Act requires districts to provide transportation for homeless students. A homeless student has the right to remain in their school of origin (SOO) for the duration of their homelessness, **IF** it is in the best interest of the student, **and** it is parent requested.

SOO is defined as; The school that child or youth attended when permanently housed. The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled; or a school that the child or youth has had some sort of connection to within the last 15 months.

Best interest is based on the student-centered factors, such as age, grade, programs, travel time, etc.

Transportation could include walking, busing, private car, public transportation bus passes, mileage reimbursement, or other means to provide the student with a way to school. MKV students will be provided similar means of transportation as other students attending the same school.

Legal Status Foster Youth

All foster family agencies provide core services to foster youth in care. In California, foster youth have the right to continue to attend their SOO through the end of the school year for youth in grades 1 through 8 and have the right to complete high school for students already in high school when their case closes. *EC* Section 48853.



Transportation For Students with Disabilities BP/AR 3541.2 – See Addendum #21 & #22

The Board of Education supports meeting 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 is determining the student's transportation needs. Other 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 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.



Policy 3250: Transportation Fees – Addendum #19

Board Policy Manual Newport-
Mesa Unified School District

Policy 3250: Transportation Fees

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/08/2009

Because the cost of providing student transportation exceeds funding provided by the state, the Governing Board finds it necessary to charge fees for home-to-school student transportation.

The Superintendent or designee shall submit proposed changes to the transportation fee schedules for Board approval. Fees shall be determined on the basis of operating costs in accordance with law.

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

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)



Regulation 3541: Transportation Routes & Services - Addendum #20

Board Policy Manual Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Regulation 3541: Transportation Routes And Services

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/08/2009

Routes and Bus Stops

The Superintendent or designee shall design transportation routes and stops to promote the safety of students and maximum efficiency in the use of buses.

Students shall be eligible for transportation service to and from school if the distance between their residence and the school is beyond the minimum listed below. These distances are measured from where the residence meets the nearest public roadway to the school by shortest traveled road:

1. For elementary school students:

Grades K-5: three-fourths mile

2. For students attending a middle school:

Grades 6-8: one mile

3. For students attending high school:

Grades 9-12: two miles

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 only in exceptional circumstances approved by the Superintendent or designee.

(cf. 5116.1- Intradistrict Open

Enrollment)(cf. 5117 -

Interdistrict attendance)

Transportation Services

With the Governing Board'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 (Education Code 39800)
2. Field trips and excursions (Education Code 35330)(cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)



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3. School activities, expositions or fairs, or other activities determined to be for the benefit of students (Education Code 39860)
4. District employees and parents/guardians traveling to and from educational activities authorized by the district (Education Code 39837.5)
5. District-operated preschool or nursery school students (Education Code 39800)
6. Students traveling to full-time occupational classes provided by a Regional Occupational Program or Center or transitional program (Education Code 39807.5, 41850)
7. Students traveling to and from their places of employment during the summer in connection with a summer employment program for youth (Education Code 39837)
8. Matriculated or enrolled adults traveling to and from school, or adults for educational purposes other than to and from school (Education Code 39801.5)
9. Private school students, in the same manner and on the same routes provided for district students (Education Code **39808**)
10. Nonschool purposes as allowed by law, such as:
 - a. Community recreation (Education Code 39835)
 - b. Public transportation (Education Code 39841)
 - c. Transportation of government employees to and from their places of employment (Education Code 39840)

The district shall provide appropriate transportation and additional transportation services as needed for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education programs. (Education Code 41850; 20 USC 1400-1482; 34 CFR 104.4)

(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)

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

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)



Policy 3541.2: Transportation For Students With Disabilities - Addendum #21

Board Policy Manual Newport-
Mesa Unified School District

Policy 3541.2: Transportation For Students With Disabilities

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 02/26/2019

The Board of Education supports meeting 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.

(cf. 0430 - Comprehensive Local Plan for Special

Education)(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special

Education)(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section

504)

The specific needs of the student shall be the primary consideration when an IEP team is determining the student's transportation needs. Other 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.

(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)

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. (Education Code 48915.5)



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(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

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. (Education Code 56366)

(cf. 6159.2 - Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education)

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.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and

Activities)(cf. 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services)

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. (Education Code 56195.8)

(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)

As necessary, a student with disabilities may be accompanied on school transportation by a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104. (Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.1-54.2; 28 CFR 35.136)

(cf. 6163.2 - Animals at School)

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.



Regulation 3541.2: Transportation For Students With Disabilities - Addendum #22

Board Policy Manual Newport-
Mesa Unified School District

Regulation 3541.2: Transportation For Students With Disabilities

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/19/2019

Transportation for students with disabilities shall be provided in accordance with a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan.

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program (IEP))

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special
Education)(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section
504)

If a disabled student is excluded from school bus transportation for more than 10 days, the district shall provide alternative transportation at no cost to the student or parent/guardian provided that transportation is specified in the student's IEP. (Education Code 48915.5)

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

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. (Education Code 56366)

(cf. 6159.2 - Nonpublic Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education)

Service dogs trained to provide assistance to disabled persons may be transported in a school bus when accompanied by disabled students, disabled teachers or persons training the dogs. (Education Code 39839)



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South Coast Air Quality Management District - Addendum #23



**South Coast
Air Quality Management District**

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

February 24, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

South Coast AQMD staff has received your request for consultation on your school district transportation plan, as required under Education Code 39800.1 (b). This letter provides information that school districts can utilize to address air quality issues that may arise during your planning process. There are two broad areas discussed below, potentially applicable requirements for school districts, and available incentive funding.¹ We appreciate your reaching out to consult with us in this important effort. Contact information for each applicable program is provided below.

Sincerely,

Eugene Kang
Planning & Rules Manager
Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation
South Coast AQMD



Potentially applicable rules:

South Coast AQMD Rule 1195

This rule² applies to both public and private³ school bus fleets with 15 or more school buses operating within the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction. For the purposes of Rule 1195, school buses can be classified as either Type A, B, C, or D, which range from medium-duty 10- passenger vans to heavy-duty vehicles that are capable of transporting 72 or more passengers (please refer to Rule 1195 for definitions of school bus types). Rule 1195 requires affected school bus fleet operators to purchase:

¹ In addition to the regulations and incentives discussed here, existing South Coast AQMD guidance specific to school sites is available here:

www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/air-quality-guidance/school_guidance.pdf.

For questions about this guidance document, please contact Sam Wang at swang1@aqmd.gov.

² Available here: www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xi/rule-1195.pdf

³ Only for private fleets that are under contract with state or local public entities

See: www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/Regulations/Fleet-Rules/fleetruleadvisory-july202005.pdf

Shelley Humphrey

2

February 24, 2026

- Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) standard or cleaner non-diesel powered school buses for newly manufactured medium-duty Type A or B school buses (for pre-owned, Low Emission Vehicle standard school buses are also allowed); or
- Alternative-fueled school buses, including natural gas, propane, battery electric, and fuel cell school buses, for newly manufactured heavy-duty Type B, C or D school buses (for pre-owned, repowered school buses with an alternative-fueled engine are also allowed).

Rule 1195 also provides limited exemptions upon approval by South Coast AQMD⁴. For more information about Rule 1195, please contact fleet rules staff at fleetrules@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3044.

California Air Resources Board (CARB) Air Toxics Control Measure on School Bus Idling

This regulation⁵ limits school bus idling and idling at or near schools to only when necessary for safety or operational concerns. It has been in effect since July 16, 2003. The program targets school buses, school pupil activity buses, youth buses, paratransit vehicles, transit buses, and heavy-duty commercial motor vehicles that operate at or near schools. More information about this regulation is available here: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/school-bus-idling-and-idling-schools>



CARB Truck and Bus Regulation

The Truck and Bus regulation⁶, which has been in effect since December 2008, requires all diesel-fueled school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) over 14,000 pounds be equipped with a Level 3 PM filter, or an original equipment manufactured PM filter that most commonly comes installed on 2007 model year and newer engines. A fact sheet applicable to school bus requirements subject to this rule is available here:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/SchoolBusFactSheet.pdf>

CARB Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance (HD I/M) Regulation

This regulation is a new program that started in January 2023 to ensure high polluting heavy-duty vehicles with maintenance issues operating in California are quickly identified and repaired. Non-gasoline heavy-duty vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) over 14,000 pounds, including school buses, are subject to the regulation which requires heavy-duty vehicles to undergo periodic emissions testing to reduce particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions, and to protect communities most impacted by air pollution. For information on how to comply with the regulation, please go to the Clean Truck Check HD I/M regulation home page: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/CTC/about>

Potentially Available Funding

South Coast AQMD AB 617 Clean Community School Initiative

The AB 617 Clean Community School Initiative is a specialized funding program managed by the South Coast AQMD designed to accelerate the transition to zero-emission student transportation. This initiative will provide up to \$30 million to replace older, high-polluting diesel, CNG, or propane school buses with CARB-certified zero-emission models. This specific solicitation is open only to private transportation providers under contract with public school districts, aiming to reduce toxic air contaminants in California's most overburdened neighborhoods. The program covers both the incremental cost of the buses and the necessary charging infrastructure to ensure a seamless transition.

The current funding cycle officially opened on February 10, 2026, and all applications must be submitted through the South Coast AQMD Online Grant Management System no later than Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 11:59 PM. Following the submission window, the agency will conduct a technical review period throughout April and June, with official award notifications expected to be released in the Summer of 2026. For additional information and to apply for funding, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov/cleancommunityschools or email us at ab617cleanschools@aqmd.gov.



⁴ Fleet operators need to submit an Exemption Request with appropriate documentation to South Coast AQMD for approval: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/Regulations/Fleet-Rules/r1195exemptionform.pdf>

⁵ Available at 13 CCR § 2480:

<https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I9F7694335A1E11EC8227000D3A7C4BC3>

⁶ <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/truck-and-bus-regulation>

South Coast AQMD Lower-Emission School Bus Program

Since 2001, South Coast AQMD has implemented the Lower-Emission School Bus Program (LESBP) and replaced over 1,900 high-polluting diesel school buses with alternative fuel or zero-emission buses. South Coast AQMD provides funding for public school districts and joint power authorities to replace Type A, C or D school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 14,000 lbs. The LESBP has provided clean, safe transportation for school children and reduced their exposure to criteria pollutants and toxic diesel particulate matter emissions. In November 2025, the South Coast AQMD approved \$78.2 million to replace 286 older diesel buses with zero-emission models across 35 public school districts, with vehicle deployments expected to begin in mid-2026. For additional information, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov/schoolbus or email us at schoolbusprogram@aqmd.gov.

Federal Clean School Bus Program

U.S. EPA is providing funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through its Clean School Bus Program. This program will provide \$5 billion over a five-year span (FY 2022-2026) to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. As of 2026, the U.S. EPA has awarded nearly \$3 billion across multiple funding rounds, and subsequent funding opportunities are expected in the future. More information is available here: www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.

Additional Funding Programs

Other funding programs may also be available for school districts to use for their transportation programs. You can find more information at the links below

South Coast AQMD: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/technology/implementation>

CARB: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/topics/incentives>

California Energy Commission: <https://calevip.org/>, <https://www.energize.org/>



Newport-Mesa

Unified School District

OCTA - Addendum #24

From: Ryan Maloney

Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 1:36 PM

Subject: Schools Email for YRF Sent

Since launching in September 2021, the Youth Ride Free promotional pass has been a tremendous success, and we would like to **thank you for your partnership in making this program possible.**

As of this week, Orange County youth have used their free passes for more than 630,000 boardings in a little more than four months – providing a free transportation option to get to school, work, or play.

As you know, the last day to use the current Youth Ride Free pass is February 28, 2022. You may be wondering about what comes next.

The OCTA Board of Directors are currently considering a proposal to continue the Youth Ride Free program and are gathering public input. There are several ways the public can provide feedback by the February 14 deadline. In addition to an [online comment form](#), OCTA will also be hosting an online [Zoom public meeting](#) on January 31, 2022, at 6 p.m.

If the program continues, OCTA will issue new Youth Ride Free passes in March 2022. We hope to continue our successful partnership with Orange County schools to make these new passes available to students. If you have any questions or comments about the current or future program, please feel free to reach out to Ryan Maloney, Section Manager, at rmaloney@octa.net.

Thank you again for helping youth have safe, free access to school, jobs, and activities throughout Orange County.

Sincerely,

Ryan Maloney

Ryan Maloney / Section Manager
Customer Engagement and Data Analytics Section
rmaloney@octa.net

OCTA
(714) 560-5451
600 S. Main St, Orange, CA 92868
www.octa.net