

FUSD 2026



THE

BLUE BIRD

Driving Students To Success

FUSD Transportation Department

Man of the Year: Christopher Zamudio

Four Years of Progress,
and an Exciting Road Ahead

Fresno Unified Transportation continues to modernize, grow, and prepare for the future.



TRANSPORTATION

2025/2026 Year at a Glance

14,855

Students Served

4,393 Athletics Trips
842 School Lead Trips
708 Student Engagement Trips
441 Department Lead Trips
341 Arts Ed Trips



100 Schools

67 Elementary
14 Middle Schools
10 High Schools
9 Alt Education/SPED

1,498,580

Miles Driven Annually

17

New Drivers
Trained



84

Routes

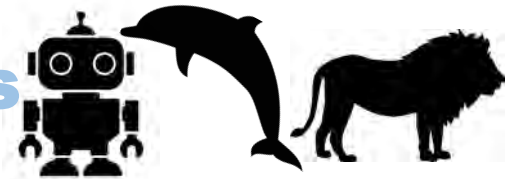


BLUE BIRD

116

Buses

6,725 2025/2026 Total Trips



16

Inservice classes
offered



7

Original Class
Offered



Fresno Unified School District



Four Years of Progress, and an Exciting Road Ahead

Fresno Unified Transportation continues to modernize, grow, and prepare for the future.

Over the past four years, Fresno Unified School District's Transportation Department has made major strides in modernizing operations, strengthening service, and building for the future.

This moment is especially meaningful to me, as it marks my 19th anniversary with Fresno Unified and my third year as Director of Transportation. It is a chance to reflect not only on my own journey, but on how far our department has come together.

In just four years, our team has embraced change in ways that are transforming how we serve students and families. We have modernized communication across our fleet with driver tablets, upgraded to digital radios, GPS tracking, and onboard cameras, and introduced new tools that improve both efficiency and safety. We also launched the Zum Parent App, giving families real-time updates and greater peace of mind.

We have strengthened the foundation of our operation in other important ways as well. The opening of the Fresno Unified Adult School Bus Driver Training Center and the certification of two additional State Certified Instructors marked important investments in workforce development. Behind the scenes, our partnership with Budget to hard-code funding categories has improved accuracy, accountability, and long-term planning.

We have also continued to invest in our fleet and infrastructure. Over the last four years, we added new air-conditioned buses, advanced AC retrofits, secured more than \$4.5 million in electric bus grants, and installed charging infrastructure to support a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Most importantly, this progress reflects the work of an outstanding team. Our drivers, dispatchers, mechanics, trainers, and office staff continue to show extraordinary commitment to Fresno Unified students every day. Their dedication is the reason we have been able to move forward with confidence.

And we are not done yet.

Looking ahead, Fresno Unified Transportation is entering an exciting new chapter. A new bus wash facility will soon help us maintain our fleet more efficiently and consistently. A new fuel system will modernize a critical part of our daily operation. And our transition to Zum as our transportation service provider will bring routing, communication, field trips, and parent engagement together in a more connected and modern system.

The past four years have been about progress, innovation, and preparation. The years ahead will be about building on that momentum and continuing to improve how we serve students, families, and schools.

I am grateful for this journey, proud of this team, and thankful for the support of District leadership—especially Paul Idsvoog, whose steady guidance and partnership have helped make this progress possible. We have come a long way, and the future ahead is bright.

-Paul Rosencrans



DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT BEN DRATI

I am honored to serve alongside a team so deeply committed to students and families. It is clear that the Transportation Department plays a critical role in ensuring that every student has access to opportunity.

Each day, you do far more than move buses—you connect students to their education. Your work is often behind the scenes, but its impact is front and center in the lives of the students we serve. Whether it's a safe ride to school, a timely arrival for learning, or reliable support for extracurricular opportunities, your dedication makes a difference.

I also want to recognize the progress your team has made in strengthening systems, improving communication, and embracing innovation. These efforts reflect a commitment not only to efficiency, but to excellence.

As we continue moving forward, I look forward to supporting your work and ensuring you have the tools and resources needed to succeed. Together, we will continue building systems that serve students well and reflect the high expectations we hold for ourselves and our district.

Thank you for all that you do.

-Dr. Ben Drati



One Card. One System. Smarter Transportation.



Fresno Unified Launches One-Card Transportation System



Fresno Unified School District is excited to introduce a major upgrade to student transportation next school year: **one unified transportation card for all student riders**. This single card will work seamlessly on both school buses and Fresno Area Express (FAX), making it easier than ever for students to get where they need to go.

This new system replaces the traditional 31-day FAX passes with a smarter, more flexible approach. Instead of managing multiple passes, students will carry one card for all transportation needs. Even better, Fresno Unified will only be charged for the actual FAX rides students take, allowing the District to use transportation funds more efficiently and direct resources where they matter most.

This exciting update builds on the successful rollout of new transportation software this year through Zum. Families are already benefiting from real-time bus tracking and improved communication, and next year we will take it a step further by requiring all students to scan their bus pass when boarding.

Requiring bus passes will give the Transportation Department accurate, real-time ridership

data. This means we can design better routes, reduce overcrowding, and respond more quickly to changes. Instead of estimating who is riding, we will have clear data to ensure every route is efficient and aligned with student needs.

Parents will continue to enjoy the Zum parent app, which provides real-time updates on bus location and confirms when students are on board. With the addition of required bus passes, families will have even greater confidence and visibility into their child's transportation experience.

Together, the one-card system, real-time tracking, and improved data will create a transportation system that is more efficient, more transparent, and more responsive. Fresno Unified is proud to continue improving how we serve students and families—making transportation simpler, smarter, and better for everyone.





The Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) Transportation Training Team continues to play a vital role in developing skilled, safety-focused professionals who serve students across the district every day. Each student begins by attending the original classroom training before moving on to FUSD's Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) program, ensuring they have a strong foundation before hands-on driving practice. Many candidates who complete both programs have subsequently been hired, demonstrating the program's direct impact on the district's workforce.

Each class provides approximately 30 hours of original instruction, but the team's investment goes far beyond classroom time. Instructors spend additional hours mentoring, coaching, and supporting trainees to ensure they are fully prepared to safely transport students. This extended commitment reflects the team's focus on both

student safety and operational excellence.

Over the past year, the training team has successfully guided dozens of students through the program while balancing operational support. Even during breaks and busy periods, the team has remained committed to providing high-quality training, ensuring a continuous pipeline of well-prepared candidates ready to serve the district's transportation needs.

Thank you to **Jennifer Moren** for her dedication to educating new candidates. Special recognition goes to **Lane-sha Ruben** for training candidates behind the wheel while still responding to daily operational needs. Through every class, every hour, and every student trained, the FUSD Transportation Training Team remains a cornerstone of the district's mission—ensuring students are transported safely, reliably, and with care.



Shaping Tomorrow's Drivers Today

Inside FUSD Training Program

JOIN OUR TEAM! NOW HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

SCAN HERE

GREAT WAGES & BENEFITS

- 8 Hours/Full Time
- Free Training
- Weekends and Nights Off
- Paid Holidays
- Overtime Opportunities

Fresno Unified
School District
TRANSPORTATION

Contact us at 559-457-3384

Leading from the Driver's Seat



California DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

*Efrain Achieves CDE
School Bus Instructor
Certification*

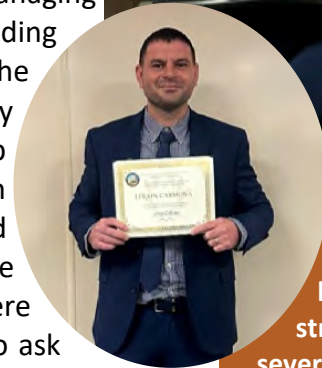
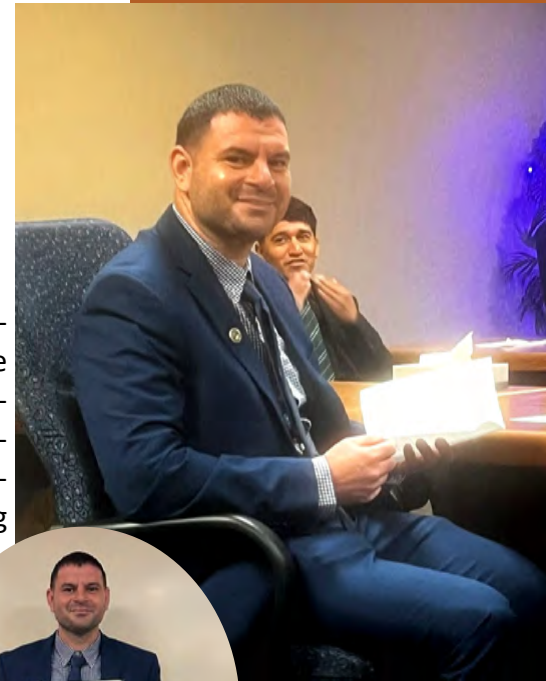
Growing up in Firebaugh, a small Central Valley town about 45 minutes from Fresno, Efrain Carmona was raised in a hard-working Mexican family alongside five brothers and one sister. His parents worked tirelessly for everything they achieved, instilling in him a deep respect for perseverance, responsibility, and dedication. Those early lessons shaped not only his character but also his approach to both life and career. For the past 20 years, he has called Fresno home, where he and his wife, Natalia—a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) teacher with Fresno Unified—have built a strong and supportive family life. Married for two decades, they are proud parents to their son Matthew, who is graduating high school this year, and their eight-year-old twin daughters, Riley and Avery, who are in the third grade.

Motivated by a passion for safety, mentorship, and service to his community, he pursued certification as a state-certified school bus instructor to make a broader impact in student transportation. Through his experience, he recognized the critical role that well-trained drivers play in ensuring student safety and want-

ed to take an active role in shaping that process. In his work, he helps new drivers navigate common challenges such as mastering vehicle control, understanding safety procedures, managing student behavior, and building confidence behind the wheel. He does this by providing step-by-step instruction, hands-on training, and real-world scenarios in a supportive learning environment where drivers feel encouraged to ask questions and grow.

Looking ahead, he is committed to strengthening the district's training program by promoting high safety standards, consistent instruction, and ongoing mentorship. His advice to aspiring drivers is simple: stay patient, remain open to learning, practice consistently, and always prioritize safety and professionalism.

Congratulations Efrain on achieving your State School Bus Instructor Certification.



We're incredibly proud of Efrain and his achievement in becoming a state instructor. He's trained several of our drivers with great success, and his leadership and positive influence make a real difference. We're excited to see him continue to lead and grow with our department in the years ahead.

**-Melissa Betran Perez,
Business Operations Manager**





SCHOOL BUS



1EV

CA EXEMPT

blink

Fresno Unified ushers in a new era of student transportation with its first electric school buses.



Fresno Unified School District is taking meaningful steps toward a cleaner, healthier future with the successful implementation of its zero-emission transportation initiatives. Through strategic planning and strong partnerships, the District has expand-

ed its electric vehicle infrastructure and introduced new electric school buses that directly benefit students and the community.

Funding secured through grant applications in previous years has come to fruition this year, allowing the District to purchase six electric school buses through the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's (Valley Air District) Zero-Emission School Bus Replacement Incentive Program. In addition, funding from the Clean Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure Program supported the construction of nine dual-port fast charging stations.

A special recognition goes to Mary J Gonzalez, Manager II. Her diligence and persistence in preparing and submitting these grant applications were instrumental in securing the funding that made these projects possible.

In partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), the District also completed key utility upgrades to support this transition. Through PG&E's EV Fleet Program, improvements included expanded electrical capacity, new conduit and cabling, a transformer, and upgraded meter service connections. This investment—valued at approximately \$500,000—lays the groundwork for Fresno Unified's long-term plan to expand its fleet with additional electric buses and vehicles.

The success of this work also reflects the efforts of Fresno Unified's Maintenance Services team. Under the leadership of project manager Sang Nguyen, teams coordinated complex construction efforts alongside PG&E to ensure projects were completed efficiently and on schedule.

Together, these accomplishments represent more than infrastructure upgrades—they reflect Fresno Unified's commitment to innovation, environmental responsibility, and creating a healthier future for the students and communities it serves.

DRIVING *Change*



Greetings from the Bus Shop:

Getting Ready for the Summer Heat



As we head into the warmer months, the team in the bus shop would like to share a few helpful reminders and tips to keep both our drivers and buses running safely and efficiently throughout the summer season.

First and foremost, we want to address air conditioning expectations. For those operating buses equipped with A/C, it's important to understand that these systems function differently than the ones in your personal vehicles. A school bus is essentially a 40-foot-long metal structure with minimal insulation and windows at nearly every seat. Because of this, it is much more difficult to maintain the same level of cooling you might be used to in a car or pickup.

With that in mind, if the air coming from the vents feels cold, the system is doing what it is designed to do. It may not feel ice-cold throughout the entire bus, especially during peak heat hours, but proper airflow and cold output from the vents indicate that the system is functioning correctly. However, if you notice that the air is blowing warm, not blowing at all, or there is a significant drop in performance, please report it promptly and bring the bus into the shop. Early reporting allows us to address issues quickly and helps prevent larger, more costly repairs down the road.

To improve overall performance, our team has also begun regularly cleaning the A/C filters across the fleet.

Clean filters help maintain better airflow and cooling efficiency, which is especially important during the summer months.

On another note, we want to touch on an issue we've been seeing with our diesel buses, specifically related to DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) systems. These systems are sensitive to excessive idling. Prolonged low idle times can lead to performance issues and, in some cases, cause the bus to go into derate, potentially taking it out of service.

To help prevent this, we ask that drivers limit unnecessary idling whenever possible. If you do need to keep the bus running while stationary, please use the high idle switch to increase engine speed. This helps the DEF system operate more efficiently, reduces buildup in the system, and ultimately keeps the bus performing reliably and staying on the road.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation and attention to these details. Small adjustments in daily operation can make a big difference in keeping our fleet in top condition. As always, if you have any questions or notice something that doesn't seem right, don't hesitate to reach out to the shop.

Stay safe, stay cool, and have a great summer!

– *Captain*

A FRESH FILL-UP FOR FUSD

Fresno Unified to Replace Four-Decade-Old Fuel System

Fresno Unified's Transportation Department is taking a major step forward in modernizing its fueling infrastructure with the introduction of the AtlasX 9800 Series Electronic Dispenser by Gasboy. This upgrade replaces fuel pumps that are 40 years old, marking a significant transition from aging equipment to a fully digital, streamlined fueling system designed to improve efficiency, accuracy, and accountability.

The project has already cleared several key milestones. Plans have been approved, and the district plans to release the project for bid in April. Following the bidding process, the initiative is currently scheduled to go before the Board for final approval in June. Following that step, the project is expected to move quickly into the construction phase during the first week of July. In parallel, procurement of necessary materials is already underway to ensure a smooth and timely rollout.

"After four plus decades, this upgrade marks a significant milestone for the District. The installation of new fuel pumps and a modern management system will enhance efficiency, improve accuracy, and strengthen accountability helping ensure the fleet remains safe, reliable, and ready to serve students each day."

— Lodgerio "Jerry" Jorge. Director of Operational Services

Installation is anticipated to begin in mid-July, bringing rapid transformation to the district's fueling operations. Once complete, the new system will feature advanced electronic dispensers equipped with touch-pad technology, allowing drivers to enter both driver and vehicle identification directly at the pump. This added layer of digital tracking will enhance reporting accuracy and strengthen operational oversight.

The upgraded station will include a total of nine fueling points: five combination gas and diesel pumps, one dedicated gasoline pump, two Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) pumps, and one propane pump. Notably, the DEF tank and dispenser will now be conveniently located at the main fueling station, improving accessibility and efficiency for drivers. These pumps support approximately 400 vehicles across the district, including utility vehicles, tractors, mowers, buses, and other district vehicles, making this upgrade essential to daily operations.

Overall, this investment represents more than just new equipment—it reflects a commitment to innovation, sustainability, and operational excellence. By adopting modern fueling technology, the district is positioning itself to better support its fleet, reduce downtime, and ensure reliable service for students and the community.



In a world that often rewards noise, Christopher Zamudio leads with something far more powerful: calm.

As Transportation Department Supervisor, Christopher has quietly transformed Dispatch into a high-functioning, cohesive team built on trust, accountability, and purpose. Promoted from Dispatcher in 2023, he didn't just step into leadership—he rebuilt it. He hired and trained a new team, re-shaped operations, and created a culture where people feel supported, respected, and ready to perform at their best.

But what sets Christopher apart isn't just what he's accomplished—it's how he shows up.

He's the first one in and the last one out, leading critical efforts like video response coordination and student behavior follow-ups with consistency and care. He is trusted by drivers because he is levelheaded, responsive, and empathetic. He consistently steps up, whether to take on additional leadership responsibilities or to directly assist drivers and support daily operations.

"He's the kind of leader you don't have to worry about, you just know it's handled."

-Paul Rosencrans, Transportation Director

Humble and coachable, Christopher is constantly working to improve—not just the department, but himself. He owns mistakes, learns quickly, and moves forward stronger. His relationships with drivers, school sites, and union partners reflect a leader who listens first, acts thoughtfully, and earns trust every day.

And while his impact at work is undeniable, it's only part of the story.

At home, Christopher is just as intentional. A devoted husband and father, he and his wife—who serves with the California Highway Patrol—share a deep

commitment to service, both professionally and personally. Their son is making a name for himself on the baseball field as a talented pitcher and their daughter shines in cheer. Christopher is the kind of dad who shows up whenever he can—whether it's a game, a practice, or a family trip—bringing steady encouragement and pride to his family.

"Chris represents exactly what strong leadership looks like in action. He leads with consistency, earns the trust of his team, and never loses sight of the people he serves. The impact he's made on the Transportation Department is real, and it shows in both the culture he's helped build and the results the team continues to deliver."

-Paul Idsvoog, Chief Operations and Classified Labor Management Officer

The Transportation Department recognizes the sacrifice he has made as a leader in building and strengthening this team so it can run efficiently. His commitment to his team has made a lasting impact on our department.

Those who know him best would say that's no coincidence.

Christopher leads the same way in every part of his life: with consistency, humility, and heart.

He is often the first to lean into major initiatives—taking on extra work without hesitation—because he knows it will make things better for everyone. From helping lead the implementation of new routing systems and transportation management software to supporting

drivers in real time, he embodies what it means to serve a team.

He doesn't seek recognition. He earns it.

Christopher Zamudio is more than a strong leader—he is the cornerstone of the department. The person people trust. The one who steadies the room. The one who makes everyone around him better.

And that's exactly what makes him our Man of the Year.

"Chris has helped build a great partnership between Transportation and Athletics. He is always willing to find a way to make things work and looking out for all of our students. I appreciate everything he does to make FUSD a great place for everyone."

-Tim Carey, Manager III, Athletics



FUSD Transportation Department

Man of the Year: Christopher Zamudio

The steady force behind a department—and the heart behind a family.

Honoring a Lifetime of Service

The People Who Keep Opportunity Moving

Public education matters.

It is one of the most important commitments we make as a society—that every child, no matter their circumstances, has access to opportunity. It's how we open doors, change trajectories, and build stronger communities. But that promise only works if students can actually get to school.

That responsibility lives in the early mornings, before most people are awake. It lives in the quiet consistency of routes that run day after day, year after year. It lives in the people who show up, no matter the weather, no matter how long the day before was, because they know someone is counting on them.

Every single day, our bus drivers make that promise real.

Long before the first bell rings, they are out on the road—making sure students have a way to arrive, to learn, and to be part of something bigger than themselves. For many students, that bus ride is more than transportation. It's structure. It's familiarity. It's a moment of calm before the day begins, and a safe return home at the end of it.

Today, we recognize the retirement of **Hector Arevalo, Miguel Diaz, Stevan Fabela, Ramona Godinez, Kathy Sanders, and Debra Trejo**—individuals who have spent years quietly doing work that truly matters. They've driven millions of miles, but more importantly, they've carried generations of students through some of the most important moments of their lives.

What stands out isn't just the distance—it's the consistency. The same stops, the same faces, the same dependable presence. A simple greeting. A steady routine. A driver who notices when something isn't quite right. Those small moments add up, and they matter more than we often realize.

Alongside them, we also recognize **Bus Shop Supervisor, Anthony Aboularage**, whose work ensured that every mile was a safe one. Behind the scenes, his leadership and attention to detail kept our fleet ready, reliable, and operating at the level our students deserve. It's not always visible work, but it is essential to everything we do.

Public education depends on people who are willing to take ownership of the role they play in something bigger. Our bus drivers and our shop team are exactly that. They are a critical part of how opportunity reaches our students.

To Hector, Miguel, Stevan, Ramona, Kathy, Debra, and Anthony: thank you. Thank you for the years, the miles, and the care you brought to this work every single day.

Because of you, students didn't miss their chance.



“

ANYONE CAN **DRIVE A CAR**
BUT IT TAKES SOMEONE
SPECIAL TO **DRIVE A SCHOOL BUS!**

”

Tony dedicated 20 years to the district, starting as a mechanic rebuilding bus engines and rising to bus shop supervisor. He values teamwork and takes pride in helping keep students safe through a growing, cleaner fleet. In retirement, he looks forward to traveling, spending time outdoors, and enjoying life to the fullest.

Q: How long have you been with the District?

A. I have been with the District for 20 years. I started on 9-11-06 as a vehicle maintenance mechanic, Ron Phillips & Tom Carrol were my supervisors and they had me rebuilding Detroit Deisel Engines 6-71N, 6-71TA & 6V-92's in our Gillig's & Crown school buses for the first 5 years I was here. At some point I accepted the roll of assistant supervisor and then in 2016 I accepted the position of Bus Shop Supervisor and have been doing it for the past 10 years.

Q: What have you enjoyed most about working with Fresno Unified?

A. I have enjoyed meeting and working with many different people from many different departments, together we solve so many problems. Not all of us get along, but all of us working together for a common goal of making sure that our students travel to school in the safest, most reliable, school buses is what we're all here for.

Q: What have you noticed has been on of the biggest changes within the District while you were here?

A. In 2006 we had 83 buses and 7 minibuses. 80 diesel, 3 CNG & 7 gasoline. Today we have 116 buses. 84 CNG, 26 diesel, & 6 electric. Our fleet is constantly growing and emission regulations are making our fleet cleaner and cleaner which means better air for our kids to breath.

Q: What are you special interests or hobbies?

A. I enjoy my dogs, camping, biking, kayaking and wood-working. I plan on learning to line dance.

Q: What is a little know fact about you?

A. I'm a charter member of the Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Church-Fresno Council #8786. I've been a member for 42 years, holding many offices along the way.

Q: What are you planning to do with your retirement? Any travel plans?

A. I plan on touring America with my camping friends. I have lots of requests from both friends and family to come for a visit. Here's my list so far, South Carolina, South Dakota, Kentucky, Oregon, Idaho, Washington state, Colorado, Florida, Caribbean, Mexico & Australia. Maybe a couple of cruises along the way too.

P.S. I plan on giving my retirement life 100% each & every day, just like I did at work. I hope retirement is as enjoyable as my work life of 47 years has been. I'll miss you all!

Sincerely,
Tony Aboularage



ANTHONY ABOULARAGE



After 16 years of dedicated service to Fresno Unified, Hector reflects on a career filled with meaningful moments and lasting connections. He especially enjoyed taking students on picnic trips—experiences that brought joy to both the students and himself. Over the years, he has witnessed notable changes within the District, particularly the evolution of the management team. Outside of work, Hector enjoys watching soccer and has a strong interest in science, space, and technology, along with spending time in Bible study. As he looks ahead to retirement, he is keeping his plans open but is considering traveling to Central America for a new adventure, closing this chapter with many great memories and a lasting impact.

Q: How long have you been with the District?

A. I have worked for the District for 16 years.

Q: What have you enjoyed most about working with Fresno Unified?

A. I enjoy taking our students on picnic trips.

Q: What have you noticed has been on of the biggest changes within the District while you were here?

A. The biggest change I have notice is our management team.

Q: What are you special interests or hobbies?

A. I like to watch soccer games.

Q: What is a little know fact about you?

A. Fun fact about me is I like a little bit about science, space and technology. I also enjoy bible studies.

Q: What are you planning to do with your retirement? Any travel plans?

A. I don't have anything planed right now, however, I am thinking about traveling to Central America.



HECTOR AREVALO



After nearly 17 years with Fresno Unified—and more than 36 years as a bus driver including Kerman Unified—Miguel Diaz retires with pride and gratitude. He valued working in one of California’s largest districts, building strong relationships with coworkers, and safely serving students. Over the years, he witnessed major advancements in transportation, including cameras, GPS, seat belts, and electric buses. In retirement, Miguel looks forward to spending more time with his grandchildren, growing in his faith through reading and study, and enjoying hobbies like soccer, boxing, karaoke, yoga, and exercise. He also plans to celebrate with a Mexican Riviera cruise.



MIGUEL DIAZ

Q: How long have you been with the District?

A. By the time I retire in June, it will be 16 years and 8

months. Total years as a bus driver is 36 1/2 combined with Kerman Unified.

Q: What have you enjoyed most about working with Fresno Unified?

A. The satisfaction of working and retiring from the third largest district in California. Working with a diverse group of drivers and getting to know some very nice coworkers.

Q: What have you noticed has been on of the biggest changes within the District while you were here?

A. Technology on the buses, such as, cameras, CNG, AC, Zum, seat belts, GPS, automatic transmissions, fuel pumps for every bus, Electric buses, child safety check. None of theses existed when I started driving.

Q: What are you special interests or hobbies?

A. I enjoy watching soccer and boxing on TV. I also like karaoke, yoga and exercising.

Q: What is a little know fact about you?

A. Even though I might look and sound different. On the inside I’m a very timid person.

Q: What are you planning to do with your retirement? Any travel plans?

A. After I retire, I plan on sleeping late and dedicating more time to my 3 year old granddaughter and 5 year old grandson. I want to spend more time reading and studying the Bible. I am also taking a one week Mexican Riviera cruise in June.



RAMONA GODINEZ

After 24 years with Fresno Unified, Ramona retires with a heart full of memories—especially the kids and the many adventures to parks, the snow, the ocean, camps, and the zoo. Through years of change, she stayed grounded in her faith, treating others with kindness and respect while always getting the job done. In retirement, she looks forward to continuing her service, helping with construction and disaster relief efforts, and going wherever she's needed most.

Q: How long have you been with the District?

A. I have been with the District 24 years. Terry Beaver gave me an application in 2002.

Q: What have you enjoyed most about working with Fresno Unified?

A. The kids and the adventures we have visiting the national parks, the snow, the ocean, the camps and the zoo.

Q: What have you noticed has been on of the biggest changes within the District while you were here?

A. One of the biggest changes was losing a lot of leadership and office staff at once, which made things difficult for a while. Things are now coming together, with new schedulers, instructors, dispatchers, payroll, and office staff working as a team, staying patient, helping each other out, and getting the job done.

Q: What are you special interests or hobbies?

A. I try my best to maintain my theocratic activities which include following Jesus' example in all aspects of my life, which include my speech, conduct, and dealing

with others. My hobbies are working on my Honda Civic EX. I love creation and construction, bicycle and motorcycle riding.

Q: What is a little know fact about you?

A. I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses and I've been studying God's word and sharing it with others since I was 16 years old. I also offer free Bible lessons or discussion with no obligation or commitment.

Q: What are you planning to do with your retirement? Any travel plans?

A. I am planning to work part time so that I may help more with The Local Design Construction (LDC) projects throughout the United States and help with disaster relief efforts. Whatever and Wherever Jehovah allows me to expand my Theocratic privileges .



After 27 years of dedicated service to Fresno Unified, Kathy is retiring with a career marked by commitment and pride. Over the past nine years, she especially enjoyed her role as a team driver for Fresno High School, building strong connections and taking pride in supporting students each day.

In retirement, Kathy looks forward to a slower pace filled with the things she loves most. She plans to spend time on home projects and return to her passion for gardening, while also enjoying hobbies like reading mystery novels, camping, and hiking to waterfalls. With a sense of adventure, she hopes to take a cross-country road trip—visiting Niagara Falls, dipping her feet in the Atlantic Ocean, and spending cherished time with her grandchildren in Indiana.

Kathy is the nicest, most patient, and honest bus driver. She always asked about where she was taking us and always made sure we had someone picking the team up on time. Great social skills and it was always nice to talk to her. Congratulations Kathy on your retirement!

-Fidel Chavez, Fresno High Boys Varsity Soccer Team

Q: How long have you been with the District?

A. I have been with the District for 27 years.

Q: What have you enjoyed most about working with Fresno Unified?

A. I have enjoyed being a team driver for Fresno High School for the past 9 years.

Q: What are your special interests or hobbies?

A. I enjoy reading mystery novels, camping,

hiking to waterfalls and gardening.

Q: What are you planning to do with your retirement? Any travel plans?

A. After retirement, I plan to do projects around the house, and get back to gardening. I hope to take a cross country trip (driving). I'd like to see Niagara Falls and put my feet in the Atlantic Ocean. I'd also like to go visit my grandkids in Indiana.

Thank you for keeping us safe on the road. We appreciate you more than you'll ever know!

-Fresno High Girls Soccer Team

KATHY SANDERS



DEBRA TREJO

Debbie Trejo retires after 13 years with the District, where she cherished building strong connections with students and forming lifelong friendships with coworkers. She enjoys woodworking, gardening, and spending time outdoors, especially in the mountains. A fun fact about Debbie is that she was once a licensed pharmacy technician in Menlo Park, serving notable customers like Shirley Temple and Willie Mays. In retirement, she looks forward to home projects, part-time work, time with her dogs, and hopefully one day traveling to Australia.

Q: How long have you been with the District?

A. I have been with the District for 13 years

Q: What have you enjoyed most about working with Fresno Unified?

A. I have enjoyed establishing positive relationships with the kids and life long friends with co-workers. (co-workers know who they are)

Q: What have you noticed has been on of the biggest changes within the District while you were here?

A. The change of the entire transportation office administration. It has help bring a calm, relaxed and moral atmosphere to the department.

Q: What are you special interests or hobbies?

A. I'm a big fan of tools. I prefer shopping at hardware stores as I like working with wood. I also enjoy gardening and always being outdoors, especially in the mountains.

Q: What is a little know fact about you?

A. Little know fact about me is that I was a licensed pharmacy technician in Menlo Park, CA. I had our be-

loved child actor Shirley Temple and beloved Willie Mays as customers.

Q: What are you planning to do with your retirement? Any travel plans?

A. I would love to travel to Australia one day. Until then, I will work part time some where and do home improvements. I also plan on spending a lot of time with my dogs.



Safer, Smarter, Connected

Fresno Unified Introduces Zum Transportation for Special Education

Fresno Unified is proud to announce an exciting new partnership that will transform the transportation experience for our Special Education students and their families. Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, Zum will provide Special Education transportation services—bringing a modern, student-centered approach focused on safety, reliability, and peace of mind.

Starting August 17, 2026, this new service will support students across 172 routes with a dedicated team of approximately 190 drivers and a fleet of 191 vehicles. This level of investment ensures that every student receives consistent, dependable transportation designed around their unique needs.

One of the most exciting features for families is the Zum parent app, which will provide real-time updates and visibility into their child's transportation. Parents will be able to track the bus live, see accurate arrival times, and receive notifications—all from their phone. This means no more guessing, no more waiting outside unsure, and fewer stressful mornings. Instead, families will have clear, reliable information at their fingertips, bringing a new level of confidence and convenience to the daily routine.

At the heart of this transition is a simple goal: make transportation easier, safer, and more reassuring for families. From the moment a student steps onto the bus, parents can feel confident knowing their child is supported by trained professionals and equipped with the latest safety technology. Each vehicle will

feature GPS tracking, onboard cameras, and enhanced safety systems, along with specialized equipment such as wheelchair accommodations and integrated child seats.



This isn't just about getting students from point A to point B—it's about creating a positive, consistent experience every day. Comfortable, air-conditioned buses, dependable service, and clear communication all help students arrive at school ready to learn and return home safely.

Zum is also building a strong local foundation right here in Fresno. A dedicated transportation facility will serve as the hub for operations, training, and support, ensuring that drivers and staff are fully prepared to meet the needs of our students.

Equally important is the focus on people. Zum has already attracted hundreds of driver applicants and is actively training the next generation of transportation professionals. Families can expect caring, well-prepared drivers who understand the importance of the role they play

in each student's day.

This partnership reflects Fresno Unified's continued commitment to innovation and student success. By combining modern vehicles, advanced technology—including the parent app—and a dedicated workforce, we are building a transportation system that truly centers on students and supports families.

As we prepare for launch, recruitment, training, and fleet delivery are all moving forward to ensure a smooth and successful start to the school year.

We are excited for what's ahead—and even more excited about what this means for our students and families.

Honoring Excellence: Fresno Unified's Robert C. Blackwell Safe Driving Award

In Fresno, California, Fresno Unified bus drivers are often unsung heroes, safely navigating busy streets each day. Among them, a select group reaches an extraordinary milestone—20 or more consecutive years of accident-free driving—earning the prestigious Robert C. Blackwell Safe Driving Award.

Named after a former Public Safety officer dedicated to highway safety, the award recognizes exceptional professionalism and commitment. To qualify, drivers must maintain a spotless record for two decades and pass a rigorous California Highway Patrol review, highlighting their unwavering dedication to keeping students and the community safe.

Congratulations to Kong Lee and Fortino Meza Jr. Blackwell Safe Driving Award Recipients



A Cleaner Fleet, A Greener Future:

Fresno Unified Secures \$1M Grant for Water-Saving Bus Wash System

The Transportation Department has secured a substantial grant of nearly \$1 million through the Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program. This financial boost will enable the department to implement a cutting-edge bus wash system, which promises to not only transform the way buses are cleaned but also make significant strides in water conservation.

At the heart of this innovative project are the Facilities Management and Planning Department and Grants Manager, Mary Gonzalez. Their relentless dedication and strategic planning have paved the way for this groundbreaking initiative, which is poised to benefit the city's commitment to water sustainability.

The dedicated Bus Drivers of Fresno Unified School District diligently maintain the cleanliness of their buses. Un-

til now, this process involved the use of hoses, buckets, and long scrub brushes. However, with the forthcoming implementation of the new

bus wash system, this age-old routine is set to undergo a remarkable transformation.

What sets this project apart is its remarkable capability to recycle a staggering 80% of the water used in the bus washing process. This technological advancement is not only a time-saving marvel for the hardworking drivers but also a crucial contribution to the ongoing efforts to conserve water resources in the midst of California's high-priority drought conditions.



Driving Excellence

FUSD Earns 2nd Place at Casto 8

Fresno Unified proudly participated in the Casto 8 Road-eo event held on March 7, 2026, in Clovis, California. Our drivers represented FUSD with professionalism, skill, and dedication, demonstrating the strength and commitment of our transportation team.



We are thrilled to announce that the FUSD team earned **2nd place overall in the group category for Transit School Buses**—a remarkable achievement that reflects the talent, preparation, and teamwork of our drivers. Participating team members included Steven Fabela, Kellie Cavazos, Leigh Jenkins, Corina Lozoya, Christina Rodriguez, Angela Gamez, Geneva Acosta, Van Phrachanhaysay, and Dania Gonzalez Ochoa, with judging by Lanesha Ruben.



This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication of our team members and their commitment to excellence in transportation. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the professionalism they displayed at the Casto 8 event.



Congratulations to Stevan Fabela on your retirement! Your passion, guidance, and commitment to the Road-eo team and the FUSD Transportation Department have made an unforgettable impact.



Our Mission Statement

Our mission at the Fresno Unified Transportation Department is to provide safe and reliable transportation for students, ensuring they reach their schools, sporting events, and activity trips daily, while meeting the educational needs of our students and staff.



Fresno Unified School District

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