

Delano Union School District
Transportation Plan
Annual Revision- March 2024

Background

The 2022-2023 enacted State Budget provided \$637 billion in funding for Home to School Transportation Services. The additional on-going funding allows school districts to receive 60 percent reimbursement of their transportation costs, plus ongoing cost of living adjustments (COLA). In order to receive the reimbursement, LEAs must develop a plan for how they will provide transportation services to their students, prioritizing low-income and those in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade.

Transportation Services

The Delano Union School District desires to provide for the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school as necessary to ensure student access to the educational program and promote regular attendance.

The District has a fleet of 18 buses and 6 passenger vans available for transportation services. We currently have 18 available bus drivers with three additional employees in training. For the 2023-2024 school year, the District provides home-to-school transportation services for 269 students. There are currently 14 routes that provide services for 97 General Education students and 172 Special Education students.

Additionally, the District contracts with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools to provide transportation services for students with disabilities that are attending county schools. There are currently 37 students that receive transportation services to schools outside of the District.

In replacing or expanding the current transportation fleet, it is the intent of the District to explore clean air measures that will reduce air quality impacts in our community. The District will continue to pursue funding opportunities for the purchase of zero-emission school buses and infrastructure, as recommended by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

To provide transportation services, the Board of Trustees may rent or lease vehicles; contract with a common carrier or municipally owned transit system; and/or contract with responsible parties including the parent/guardian of the student being transported.

Students with Disabilities and Homeless Youth

The District will continue to provide transportation services to students with disabilities, when specified in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). The specific needs of the student shall be the primary consideration when an IEP team is determining the student's transportation needs. Considerations may include, but are not limited to, the student's health needs, travel distances, physical accessibility and the safety of streets and sidewalks. Transportation services specified in the student's IEP or Section 504 plan shall be provided at no cost. These services may include curb-to-curb service, where a student is picked up and dropped off at the safest location closest to their home, or shuttle transportation services if the student is attending a school outside of their school of residence. For shuttle services, students are picked up and dropped at a centralized location determined by the District.

Students designated as homeless are identified and monitored by the Homeless Liaison. The Homeless Liaison will work with the Transportation Department to ensure that homeless students are transported to and from school. The mode of transportation is based on the best interest of the student and in consultation with the parent/guardian (district transportation, bus passes, etc.). When a student attends their school of origin and resides outside of district boundaries, the District will consult with the district of residence to coordinate transportation services. Transportation services to homeless students shall be provided at no cost to the pupil.

Foster Youth

Students who are or become Foster Youth must be permitted to continue their education at their "school of origin" through the end of the academic year. The District will provide Foster Youth transportation to their school of origin during the duration of the time they are in foster care. The Student Support Services Director will arrange the transportation services and will ensure that foster youth promptly receive transportation services to their school of origin. The mode of transportation is based on the best interest of the student and in consultation with the Child Welfare Agency (district transportation, bus passes, etc.). If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the District will provide transportation through one of the following methods: the Child Welfare Agency agrees to reimburse the school district; the school district agrees to pay the costs; or the school district and the Child Welfare Agency agree to share the costs.

Priority for TK-6 and Low Income Students

The District will prioritize transportation of General Education students in grades TK-6 and low income students by doing the following:

1. Provide transportation to and from school if the distance between their school-established bus stop, and the school is beyond three-fourths mile for grades TK-3 and one mile for grades 4-8. The Governing Board may authorize transportation services below these limits when safety concerns or hazards exist.

2. Establish bus stops at designated locations using criteria established by the California Highway Patrol and consistent with distance minimums above.
3. Determine the maximum capacity of bus routes.
4. Assign students to routes in the following order until the maximum capacity is reached:
 - a. TK-6th grade students and students residing in households with an income level at or below the "low income" threshold will have first priority, followed by 7-8th grade students residing in households with an income level above the "low income" threshold.

Free Transportation for Unduplicated Pupils

Students receiving General Education or Special Education transportation services, including Unduplicated Pupils (low socio-economic students, English Learners or Foster Youth) will receive District transportation services at no charge.

Consultations

In accordance with Education Code 39800.1, the District sought input from stakeholders in developing the plan for services. Meetings were held with the following groups to discuss the transportation services offered and the plan for prioritizing students.

Delano Union Elementary Teachers Association (DUESTA)	March 1, 2023
California School Employees Association (CSEA)	March 1, 2023
Administrative Cabinet	March 15, 2023

The Draft plan was emailed to Kern Transit and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for review and input.

A public hearing was initially held on March 13, 2023 to seek both in-person and remote input from parents and stakeholders. A public hearing notice was published in the local newspaper and posted at all school sites and the District Office on February 27, 2023. The draft plan was posted on our website, www.duesd.org and available for public review as of February 27, 2023.

The District also issued a survey to solicit feedback from stakeholders. The survey was posted on our website and link to the survey and draft plan was shared on the ClassDojo and Remind communication platforms. The deadline to submit the survey was March 24, 2023.

Revenue Calculation

Total 2022-23 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	3,214,984.75
Less Capital Outlay (object 6XXX, Function 3600)	-
Less Nonagency Expenditures (Goal 7110,7150, Function 3600)	-
Estimated 60% Reimbursement	1,928,990.85
Less 2022-23 Transportation add-on (from LCFF Calculator)	188,776.00
Total Revenue (Object 8590, Resource 0000)	1,740,214.85

Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

2000-2999 - Classified Salaries	1,040,698.83
3000-3999 - Employee Benefits	686,329.81
4000-4999 - Books and Supplies	116,067.46
5000-5999 - Services and other Operating Expenditures	1,371,888.65
6000-6999 - Capital Outlay	-
7000-7999 - Other Outgo	-
Total Expenditures	3,214,984.75

Original Board Approval Date: March 31, 2023

Revised Board Approval Date: March 11, 2024

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