

Palo Verde Unified School District

Transportation Services Plan

Updated March 12, 2024



This Transportation Services Plan meets the Home-to-School (HTS) Transportation Reimbursement requirement that was implemented by Assembly Bill (AB) 181 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2022) and amended by AB 185 (Chapter 571, Statutes of 2022). The plan meets statutory requirements allowing for reimbursement funding for school districts and county offices of education (COEs) based on the prior year eligible transportation expenditures and prior year Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) transportation related add-on funding. The statutes authorizing this funding (*California Education Code (EC) [Section 39800.1](#)* and *[EC Section 41850.1](#)*):

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 1 each year thereafter. The plan shall include the following components:

- (1) A description of the local educational agency's transportation services that would be accessible to pupils with disabilities and homeless children and youth, as defined pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.).
- (2) A description of how unduplicated pupils, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 42238.02, would be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no cost to the pupils.
 - (b) (1) The plan shall be developed in consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, parents, pupils, and other stakeholders.
- (3) The plan shall be presented and adopted by the governing board of the local educational agency in an open meeting with the opportunity for in-person and remote public comment.
 - (c) The plan may provide for the local educational agency to partner with a municipally owned transit system to provide service pursuant to this section to middle school and high school pupils.
 - (d) Nothing in a local educational agency's plan shall preclude a local educational agency from providing no-cost transit passes to pupils from a State recognized public transit provider who operates within the boundary of the District.
 - (e) For purposes of this section, "local educational agency" means a school district or a county office of education.

Transportation Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a transportation plan in consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, parents/guardians, students, and other stakeholders. (Education Code 39800.1)

The transportation plan shall be presented to and adopted by the Board at an open meeting, with the opportunity for in-person and remote public comment, and shall be updated annually by April 1. (Education Code 39800.1)

The transportation plan shall include descriptions of the following: (Education Code 39800.1)

1. The transportation services offered to students
2. How transportation services will be prioritized for low-income students, students in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive
3. The transportation services accessible to students with disabilities and homeless children and youth, as defined pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11301)
4. How unduplicated students, as defined in Education Code 42238.02, will be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no cost

PVUSD Transportation Services Offered to Students

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the qualifications of bus drivers and related staff employed by the district, provide for the maintenance and operation of district-owned school buses and other equipment, and ensure adequate facilities for equipment storage and maintenance.

The District currently has 18 school buses in use. All buses are Type 1 designed to carry more than 16 passengers plus the driver. 4 of the buses are designed for wheelchairs for our Special Needs students. In addition, the District owns 1 passenger van to transport students. The District operates a total of 14 routes; 10 routes are for General Education and 4 routes are specific for Special Education students. Our students are serviced by a total of 14 school bus drivers, 8 bus monitors, and 1 van driver. PVUSD is continuously working on recruitment efforts to train and hire bus drivers.

For the 2023-24 school year, the District is transporting 640 General Education students and Special Education Students weekly. The Superintendent or designee shall design transportation routes and stops within district boundaries that promote student safety, maximum efficiency in the use of buses, and decreased traffic in and around the schools.

Transportation for General Education is currently provided for students residing in the boundaries of the District. PVUSD students shall be eligible for transportation service to and from school if the distance between their school-established bus stop and the school is beyond the minimum listed:

TK/ K-3 grades at, or beyond 3/4 mile

4-5 grades at, or beyond 1 mile

6-12 grades at, or beyond 2 miles

The Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation within the walking distance when special problems or hazards exist.

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

PVUSD transportation services are provided by the district free of charge for:

1. Students traveling to and from school during the regular school day (Education Code 39800)
2. Field trips and excursions (Education Code 35330)
3. School activities, expositions or fairs, or other activities determined to be for the benefit of students (Education Code 39860)
4. District employees, parents/guardians, and adult volunteers traveling to and from educational activities authorized by the district (Education Code 39837.5)
5. Preschool or nursery school students (Education Code 39800)

Priority for TK-6 and Low-Income Students

The District will prioritize the transporting of students in Grades TK through 6 and low-income students. PVUSD provides free transportation service for all PVUSD students with the established walking district guidelines per grade-level.

Transportation Services Students with Disabilities/Homeless and Foster Youth (as defined pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11301))

Students with Disabilities:

The Governing Board desires to meet the transportation needs of students with disabilities to enable them to benefit from special education and related services. The district shall provide appropriate transportation services for a student with disabilities when the district is the student's district of residence and the transportation services are required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan.

The specific needs of the student shall be the primary consideration when an IEP team is determining the student's transportation needs. Considerations may include, but are not limited to, the student's health needs, travel distances, physical accessibility and safety of streets and sidewalks, accessibility of public transportation systems, midday or other transportation needs, extended-year services, and, as necessary, implementation of a behavioral intervention plan.

The 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 the parent/guardian.

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)

The Superintendent or designee shall arrange transportation schedules so that students with disabilities do not spend an excessive amount of time on buses compared to other students. Arrivals and departures shall not reduce the length of the school day for these students except as may be prescribed on an individual basis.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any mobile seating devices used on district buses are compatible with bus securement systems required by 49 CFR 571.222. (Education Code 56195.8)

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

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.

Homeless Children and Youth:

Each homeless student shall be provided services that are comparable to services offered to other students in the school, including, but not limited to, transportation, educational programs for which the student meets the eligibility criteria (such as federal Title I services or similar state or local programs, programs for students with disabilities, and educational programs for English learners), career and technical education programs, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs. (42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate with other agencies and entities to ensure that homeless children and youth are promptly identified, ensure that homeless students have access to and are in reasonable proximity to available education and related support services, and raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness. Toward these ends, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local social services agencies, other agencies

or entities providing services to homeless children and youth, and, if applicable, transitional housing facilities. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate transportation, transfer of school records, and other interdistrict activities with other local educational agencies. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall coordinate, within the district and with other involved local educational agencies, services for homeless students and services for students with disabilities. (42 USC 11432)

The district's liaison for homeless students shall fully inform parents/guardians of homeless students and unaccompanied youth of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, and assist them in accessing transportation to the school of choice.

The district shall provide transportation for a homeless student to and from school of origin when the student is residing within the district and the parent/guardian, or the district liaison in the case of an unaccompanied youth, requests that such transportation be provided. If the student moves outside of district boundaries, but continues to attend the student's school of origin within this district, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district in which the student is now residing to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation. (42 USC 11432)

Foster Youth:

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to determine how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded in a cost-effective manner to enable foster youth to remain in their school of origin, for the duration of their time in foster care, when it is in their best interest to do so. Such transportation costs may be paid by either the child welfare agency or the district, or shared by both. (20 USC 6312)

Free Transportation for Unduplicated Pupils (as defined in Education Code 42238.02)

PVUSD provides free transportation services for all PVUSD students within the established walking district guidelines per grade-level; and in particular, for low-income students, English Learner Students, Homeless and Foster Students.

PVUSD Student Transportation Plan Input:

In accordance with Education Code 39800.1, the District sought input from the following groups:

Cabinet Team	January 30, 2024
Union Leadership Team	January 25, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSEA• PVTA• Teamsters Local 542 Group I• Teamsters Local 542 Group II	
Action Planning Team	February 15, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principals (5)• Cabinet• Head Start Coordinator• Curriculum & Instruction Coordinator• FMOT Coordinator• Business Services Coordinator	
Governing Board	February 21, 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board Members (5)• Student Board Member (1)	
CSEA Meeting	March 23, 2023
Mojave Desert Air Quality	March 27, 2023
Palo Verde Transit Authority	March 27, 2023

Ongoing Survey: Available to the public for input on the District Website www.pvUSD.us

The PVUSD Student Transportation Plan was presented to the Governing Board and adopted as amended on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Adopted: 2/21/23
Amended: 3/29/23
Amended: 5/2/23
Amended: 3/12/24