



La Mesa-Spring Valley School District
Transportation Services Plan
2024-2025

Pursuant to EC 39800.1



Mandate

California Education Code Section 39800.1 states:

(a) As a condition of receiving apportionments under Section 41850.1, a local educational agency shall develop a plan describing the transportation services it will offer to its pupils, and how it will prioritize planned transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and pupils who are low income. The plan shall be adopted by the local educational agency's governing board on or before April 1, 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.

(2) The plan shall be presented and adopted by the governing board of the local educational agency in an open meeting with the opportunity for in-person 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.

(e) For purposes of this section, "local educational agency" means a school district or a county office of education.



Overview

The La Mesa-Spring Valley School District Transportation Services Plan incorporates existing Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR) governing student transportation support services, as well as augmented descriptions of available services for the current school year. The plan describes:

- Transportation services offered to students
- Transportation services accessible to students with disabilities, and homeless children and youth.
- The prioritization of planned transportation services for students in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 - 6 inclusive, and students who are low income.
- The required consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, parents, students and other stakeholders.

Pupil Transportation Operations Board Authorization

The Governing Board desires to provide for the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school as necessary to ensure student access to the educational program, promote regular attendance, and reduce tardiness. In determining the extent to which the district will provide transportation services, the Board shall weigh student and community needs against the cost of providing such services. (BP 3540)

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Board economical, environmentally sustainable, and appropriate means of providing transportation services. (BP 3540)

The Board may purchase, rent, or lease vehicles; contract with a common carrier or municipally owned transit system; contract with responsible private parties including the parent/guardian of the student being transported; and/or contract with the County Superintendent of Schools. (Education Code 35330, 39800, 39801) (BP 3540)



The Board may charge a transportation fee to parents/guardians of transported students in accordance with Education Code 39807.5 and BP/AR 3250 - Transportation Fees. (BP 3540)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to promote safety for students traveling on school buses. (BP 3540)

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. (BP 3540)

History of School Transportation Funding

Prior to 1978, the State of California fully reimbursed districts for their pupil transportation operational costs for the previous year's expenses. With the enactment of Proposition 13 in 1978, this restricted funding was reduced for the first time and the state's reimbursement percentage gradually declined until the 1982-83 fiscal year when it was capped at 80% of reported costs for that year. Periodic funding reductions continued over the years since, culminating in a 20% categorical cut for pupil transportation during the Great Recession in 2008. By then, the state was only covering approximately 35% of reported costs to LEAs statewide. In an effort to simplify education funding as a whole, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) was developed in the 2013-14 fiscal year, which provided pupil transportation funding to be frozen at the 2012-13 funded amounts. While these funds became unrestricted with the LCFF, the LEAs were required to spend at least as much as was funded for their transportation programs. Since 2013, La Mesa Spring Valley School District has been receiving \$957,667 for Home to School (HTS) and Special Education pupil transportation expenses each fiscal year. When compared to our LMSV Transportation Operating Budget for the 2022-2023 Fiscal year of \$4,248,614, the district had to provide \$3,290,947 in funding primarily through the General Fund and other revenue sources (Bus Pass Revenue, etc.) in order to provide our HTS and mandated Special Education transportation services. This amounts to a funding percentage of only 22.5% annually.

On June 30, 2022, AB 181, an education omnibus trailer bill, was signed into law changing the state's funding formula for LEAs. Subsequently, Education Code (EC) 41850.1 now provides for



the largest increase in pupil transportation funding in decades, allocating 60% of HTS function 3600 transportation expenditures, less capital outlay and nonagency expenditures and minus the LCFF Transportation Add-On. This will amount to roughly \$2,509,609(New AB 181 Funds plus Current LCFF Funding) in total funding for LMSV, an increase of\$1,551,942. As a condition of this funding, EC 39800.1 requires the LEAs to produce a Transportation Services Plan that describes the transportation services it offers and how it will prioritize planned services for transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 through 6 with an emphasis on low-income/unduplicated students' access to transportation. This plan is required to be adopted by the Board of Education of each LEA by April 1 of 2023 and by April 1 of each subsequent year.

Scope of Transportation Services and Eligibility Parameters

La Mesa Spring Valley School District provides state mandated Special Education (SPED) transportation and non-mandated Home to School (HTS) General Education transportation for our Early Start, Pre-School, TK, and K-8 grade students within the City of La Mesa and the unincorporated community of Spring Valley, located in San Diego County. The district provides 16 SPED routes and five (5) HTS routes that service roughly **224** SPED students, **464** General Education students, and **77** Foster, Homeless, and overflow students.

Students with disabilities are provided transportation as a related service based on the determination of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Typically, this is provided to students who have been placed in a program that is not at their home school, but may also be provided due to a disability that the IEP determines would otherwise prevent them from accessing their education at their home school.

The district shall provide home-to-school transportation and additional transportation services as needed for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education program or Section 504 plan. (Education Code 41850; 20 USC 1400-1482; 34 CFR 104.4, 300.17, 300.34) (AR 3541)

General Education transportation is eligible to students to our Bancroft, Highlands, Loma, Murray Manor, Sweetwater Springs elementary schools and Parkway and Spring Valley Academy middle



school campuses based on board policy in relation to the student's residence distance from their home school.

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. (AR 3541)

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 below: (AR 3541)

1. For elementary school students:
 - Grades K-3: one mile
 - Grades 4-6: one-and-a-half miles (AR 3541)

2. For students attending a middle school:
 - Grades 7-8: no transportation is available (AR 3541)

Homeless students who qualify under the provisions of the McKinney Vento Act are eligible for transportation to their school of origin, as stated in the statute, free of charge.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide transportation to homeless students in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. When the student resides outside of district boundaries, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district of residence to apportion the responsibility and costs of transportation. (42 USC 11432) (AR 3541)

Foster students receive transportation-based provisions in Every Student Succeeds Act which are similar to the McKinney Vento Act whereby a Foster Student must be provided transportation to their school of origin to maintain stability for the student's academic success, free of charge.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to determine the provision, arrangement, and funding of transportation to enable foster youth to attend their school of origin when it is in the student's best interest to do so. (20 USC 6312) (AR 3541)



Priority for TK-6 and Low-Income Students

Pursuant to EC 39800.1, La Mesa Spring Valley School District 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. LMSV has and will continue to provide fee-based General Education HTS transportation to students in grades TK through 6 based on established routes for five (5) of our 17 elementary schools in accordance with board policy. As stated above in this policy, non-transportable zones are established based on grade level.

Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, parents/guardians shall receive information about income eligibility standards and application procedures for a waiver of the transportation fee. All applications and related records shall be confidential and used only for the purpose of determining a student's eligibility for a fee waiver. (AR 3250)

The transportation fee shall be waived for students with demonstrated financial need in accordance with Education Code 39807.5. Eligibility for free transportation based on financial need shall be determined in accordance with the income eligibility scales used for the free and reduced-price lunch program. (BP 3250)

Students receiving free transportation shall not be identified by the use of special bus passes, tickets, lines, seats, or any other means. They shall in no way be treated differently from other students, nor shall their names be published, posted, or announced in any manner or used for any purpose other than the transportation program. (AR 3250)

LMSV has and will continue to ensure that all eligible Unduplicated Students (Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, and English learners) as well as homeless youth will be able to receive transportation with a free bus pass or simply through route assignment on existing routes. In the event that the maximum passenger capacity is reached on a bus, priority will be provided for unduplicated students before those whose families fall above the Low-Income threshold.



Special Education student transportation for all grade levels has and will continue to be provided free of charge. Transportation for students with disabilities is a mandated service when transportation is determined to be a related service in a student's IEP.

In addition, no charge shall be made for any transportation of a student with a disability whose individualized education program includes transportation as a related service necessary to receive a free appropriate public education. (Education Code 39807.5) (BP 3250)

To better serve the community of our district, LMSV will periodically review all resources and determine if transportation services can be expanded to additional schools or for students who reside closer to their home school. While we desire to serve more of our student population, the inability to provide transportation to students who live closer to school or who attend schools that are not currently receiving transportation is largely due to the district's limited capital resources (school buses), financial funding, and driver staffing. While AB 181 will help to finance the department at levels unseen in decades, the largest challenge lies with the ability to recruit and hire school bus drivers.

The Governing Board desires to provide for the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school as necessary to ensure student access to the educational program, promote regular attendance, and reduce tardiness. In determining the extent to which the district will provide transportation services, the Board shall weigh student and community needs against the cost of providing such services. (BP 3540)



2023-2024 Student Data

Figure 1 below provides data on LMSV students receiving transportation.

	General Education	Special Education	Total
Routes	5	16	21
Students Transported	464	224	751
TK-6 Students Transported	354	178	532
Unduplicated Students Transported	376	152	546
Percentage of Total District Unduplicated Students Transported	7.1%	11.4%	8.0%
Bus Passes Sold	28	0	28
Free Bus Passes Issued	436	0	436
Miles Traveled	40,782	238,232	279,014
District Demographics	Hispanic 52.1% / White 25.6% / Black 7.8% / Asian-Other 14.5%		

Transportation Funding and Finance

Figure 2 below contains the projected reimbursement for the 2023-2024 school year based on actual transportation expenses in the 2022-2023 school year.

Transportation Funding Calculation	
Total 2022-23 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	\$4,248,614
Less Capital Outlay	\$65,933
Less Nonagency Expenditures	\$0
Estimated 60% Reimbursement	\$2,509,608
Less Transportation add-on (From LCFF Calculator)	\$957,667
Total Projected Funding	\$1,551,941

Stakeholder Consultation

In accordance with Education Code 39800.1, the District sought input from the following stakeholder groups: Parents, Students, Teachers, Classified Staff, School Administrators, Regional Local Transit Authority, Local Air Pollution Control District, Local Air Management District, other Stakeholders.