



Saugus Union School District

Transportation Service Plan

for 2022/23 and 2023/24

BACKGROUND

In 2013-2014, with the enactment of the Local Control Funding Formula (“LCFF”), State funding for Home-to-School (“HTS”) Transportation was established at a fixed amount, in perpetuity, based on the amount of funding each school district received in 2012-2013 for both general education and special education transportation. This was accomplished by providing an “add-on” (“Transportation Add-On”) to the resulting LCFF funding after all other factors, including any Cost-of-Living Adjustment (“COLA”), were applied to the formula.

Consequently, the Transportation Add-On remains fixed, with the amount for the Saugus Union School District permanently set at \$386,613. Beginning in 2023-2024, this amount will no longer be a fixed amount, and will be adjusted annually by any COLA provided to state programs. Before 2013-2014, the amount of funding provided by the state for HTS Transportation was insufficient to cover the actual costs of providing transportation. Consequently, most school districts were forced to contribute other unrestricted general fund dollars to the program and/or decrease the students that were served by transportation. Because the Transportation Add-On did not increase each year, the District contribution to HTS Transportation grew over time as costs escalated. For 2021-2022, Saugus Union School District’s cost for transportation was \$1,272,194 producing a District contribution to HTS Transportation from the unrestricted general fund equal to \$885,581.

Due to advocacy efforts by several statewide organizations representing school district governing boards and administrators, for the first time in more than ten years, the 2022-2023 enacted State Budget included additional funding for HTS Transportation. The funding now allows school districts to receive the greater of the current Transportation Add-On augmented for COLA or 60% of reported transportation costs. This will enable the Saugus Union School District to receive additional funding of approximately \$348,992 in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Per Education Code (EC) Section 39800.1, (see attached Exhibit A) as a condition of receiving apportionments for Transportation Services (under EC Section 41850.1), a local educational agency shall develop a plan describing the transportation services. The plan shall be presented and adopted by the governing board of the local educational agency on or before April 1, 2023, in an open meeting with the opportunity for in-person and remote public comment. Nothing in a local educational agency’s plan shall preclude a local educational agency from providing no cost transit passes to pupils.

State required component #1: Enter a description of your district's plan of the transportation services it will offer to pupils. How it will prioritize transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and pupils who are low income (for 2023/24).

DESCRIPTION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Saugus Union School District is in the Santa Clarita Valley in Northern Los Angeles County. Currently, we have approximately 9,370 students attending 15 school sites. All our schools offer a kindergarten to sixth grade program. Preschool programs exist at three of these locations and transitional kindergarten programs are hosted at eleven school sites. Of our 9,370 students, 490 require special education services.

The district includes the following school sites:

- Bridgeport Elementary School
- Cedar creek Elementary School
- Emblem Elementary School
- James Foster Elementary School
- Helmers Elementary School
- Highlands Elementary School
- Mountainview Elementary School
- North Park Elementary School
- Plum Canyon Elementary School
- Rio Vista Elementary School
- Rosedell Elementary School
- Santa Clarita Elementary School
- Skyblue Mesa Elementary School
- Tesoro Elementary School
- West Creek Academy

For the current fiscal year, the Saugus Union School District contracts with Storer Transportation School & Contract Service ("Storer") to furnish its student transportation services, including Home-To-School Transportation for special education pupils and we also provide activity bus transportation for approximately 150-200 field trips each year. The current contract with Storer runs through June 30, 2023, and it can be extended one additional year to June 30, 2024. The District owns a fleet of sixteen buses (see Exhibit B) that include five conventional buses, and two transit buses. Seven of the sixteen are larger capacity buses that can carry more than sixty passengers. Four are wheelchair conventional buses that typically carry twenty-four or more students with wheelchairs, and five are cut-a-way buses that transport no more than twenty-five passengers. The year of the fleet ranges from 1996 to 2019. These vehicles traveled a total of 148,877 miles in the 2021-2022 school year.

The current busing contract with Storer provides for the training and certification of bus drivers, the required maintenance, inspections, and certifications for the District owned buses. Storer hires and

employs all personnel required to meet the transportation needs of the District. The buses are stored and maintained at our District Support Center on Ruether Avenue.

The District does not transport general education students.

DESCRIPTION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES UPDATES and PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS

Community partner input has indicated areas of need and potential enhancements to increase and/or improve the current program. The following areas have been identified for the 2023/24 school year consideration:

- **Unduplicated student access:** The District will determine if a general education bus route could be added to assist families living beyond the walking distance found in Board Administrative Regulation 3541 (K-3 = ¾ mile, 4-6 = 1 mile). These bus routes could also serve those students participating in our Expanded Learning Opportunity Programs. The District has provided transportation for students during our Summer STEAM Academy and anticipates providing it again this year.
Estimated Costs: about \$125,000 per route per school year
- **Replacement of aging buses:** The District is currently working on a plan to add electrical charging options at the District Support Center on Ruether Avenue in anticipation of purchasing electric buses. Bus replacement should be scheduled out to determine the future funding needs, and as grants for new buses are available, the District should access the funding.
Estimated Costs: about \$400,000 per electric bus, \$200,000 per propane bus

State required component #2: Enter a description of your district's transportation services that would be accessible to pupils with disabilities, and homeless children and youth.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND HOMELESS YOUTH

Students with disabilities: Currently the District transports approximately 180 special education students Monday through Thursday and approximately 140 special education students on Fridays. We currently operate 14 morning routes and 13 after-school routes. Any student with a disability may receive transportation when Saugus Union School District is their district of residence, and transportation services are required by their individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan.

Transportation for students receiving special education services is coordinated with Storer by the Student Support Services Division. Transportation is also provided for the Extended School Year (ESY) special education students during the summer.

Students experiencing homelessness: Transportation services for students experiencing homelessness is coordinated with HopSkipDrive by the Homeless/Foster Youth Liaison in the Student Support Services Division.

State required component #3: Enter description of how unduplicated pupils would be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no cost to the pupils.

FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR UNDUPLICATED PUPILS

The District does not currently provide home-to-school transportation services to general education students.

State required component #4: Your plan must 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. Enter a description of your plan consultation with those parties.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PLAN

Saugus Union School District's Transportation Plan is posted on the district website for feedback. Staff, teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and community members can provide feedback on the plan by completing an electronic survey.

The district is also consulting with regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts, and air quality management districts to gather their input and recommendations.

In addition to providing feedback through the survey, public comments may be submitted during the regular Governing Board Meeting on March 28, 2023.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BUDGET

2022-23 Home-to-School (HTS) Transportation Reimbursement Calculation	
A. Total 2021-22 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	\$ 1,272,194
B. Total 2021-22 Capital Outlay (Object 6xxx, Function 3600)	\$ 46,186
C. Total 2021-22 Nonagency Expenditures (Goal 7110, 7150, Function 3600)	\$ 0
D. Estimated 60% Reimbursement	\$ 735,605
E. Less 2021-22 Transportation Add-on from LCFF (if >0, the Transportation Allowance shall be zero):	\$ 386,613
Total 2022-23 HTS Transportation Reimbursement Calculation (Object 8590, Resource 0000)	\$ 348,992

2022-23 Projected Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	
2000-2999: Classified Salaries	\$ 0
3000-3999: Employee Benefits	\$ 0
4000-4999: Books and Supplies	\$ 34,000
5000-5999: Services and Other Operating Expenditures	\$ 1,183,000
6000-6999: Capital Outlay	\$ 86,000
7000-7999: Other Outgo	\$ 0
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,303,000

Resources:

California Education Code (EC) Section 39800.1:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=39800.1.&lawCode=EDC

California Education Code (EC) Section 41850.1:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=41850.1.&lawCode=EDC

Home-to-School Transportation Reimbursement FAQs:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/tn/tr/#TransportationServicePlan>