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### TRANSPORTATION QUALIFICATIONS AND FEES

# **Home-to-School Transportation**

Home-to-school transportation services will be made available for a fee to grades K-5 students who reside more than one mile from their schools of attendance and grades 6-12 students who reside more than two miles from their schools of attendance, or if they qualify on a space available basis.

Home-to-school bus runs will be made once in the morning, and school-to-home bus runs will be made once in the afternoon. Early morning, mid-day and/or late afternoon bus runs will not be made to accommodate students who are unable to use the regular morning and afternoon bus runs.

Any student who is not eligible for District transportation services (i.e., residing inside the one/two-mile walking distance, Form 10 student, Form 11 student, etc.) may be allowed to ride the school bus for a fee on a "space-available" basis. If applications for space-available ridership exceed available space on the bus, younger students (as determined by grade level) will be granted transportation services on a priority basis (i.e., kindergarten students are first priority; first grade students are second priority; etc.). When it is necessary, an impartial drawing will be used at a particular grade level to determine ridership.

Staff is directed to coordinate school schedules and bus routes to meet the needs of students. Further, bus routes and stops will be designed to meet the safety needs of students and enable the District to provide transportation services in an energy and cost-efficient manner.

# **Fee Schedule and Collection**

Transportation fees charged by the district shall not exceed the statewide average non-subsidized cost of providing such transportation to a student on a publicly owned or operated transit system, as determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Education Code 39807.5)

The total amount received by the district from the state and parent/guardian fees shall not exceed the actual operating cost of home-to-school transportation during the fiscal year. If excess fees are collected due to errors in estimated costs, fees shall be reduced in succeeding years. (Education Code 39809.5)

The Governing Board shall certify to the County Superintendent of Schools that the district has levied fees in accordance with law and that, in the event that excess fees have been charged, the fees have been reduced and excess fee revenue eliminated. (Education Code 39809.5)

Bus passes and tickets shall be sold at the Transportation Department Office. No money shall be collected on school buses.

#### **Student Transportation Fees**

The annual home-to-school transportation fee schedule for all students (TK-12) who ride the bus to or from school and/or to and from school will be reviewed annually and a fee schedule established for the year. Each family must pay for up to two riders per family, but any additional riders from the family will be transported free.

Transportation fees for students who ride the school bus once in the morning or once in the afternoon will be one-half the rate paid by other students. Fees for less than a full year will be prorated by staff based on the proportional part of the year that transportation of the student is approved by the District.

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Parents desiring home-to-school transportation services must apply for the service and receive District approval before their child(ren) will be allowed to ride the school bus. Parents who pay a transportation fee and received District approval for their child to ride a school bus will be advised that they must pay any subsequent transportation fee(s) prior to the beginning of a new quarter to retain their transportation service. Parents will also be advised that if transportation fees are not paid prior to the beginning of a new quarter their transportation services will be revoked within five (5) school days after notification of non-payment and the parent assumes full responsibility for the welfare and transport of her/his child.

## **Exemption from Fees**

Students unable to attend their neighborhood school due to overcrowding shall be provided free transportation from their neighborhood school to another school as assigned by the District until a vacancy occurs in their neighborhood school.

Eligibility for free or reduced transportation based on indigence shall be based on the income eligibility scales used for the free and reduced-price lunch program.

At the beginning of the school year and whenever a new student is enrolled, parents/guardians shall receive information about free transportation eligibility standards, application procedures and appeal procedures.

All applications and records related to eligibility for free transportation shall be confidential and used only for purposes directly connected with the free transportation program.

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.

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