



County of Tuolumne

Kelle Schroeder

Agricultural Commissioner • Weights & Measures
Animal Control • Air Pollution Control
2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370
Phone: (209) 533-5691 Fax (209) 533-5520

*Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights & Measures
Director of Animal Control
Air Pollution Control Officer*

Date: March 10, 2023

Re: AB 181-School District Transportation Service Plans and Local Air District Consultation

Dear Superintendent of Tuolumne County Schools,

We recently learned that all school districts in California are required to consult with their local air district (among others) to develop a plan related to transportation services, to meet the requirements of California Assembly Bill 181.

The bill reads in part: "SEC. 14. 39800.1. (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.*"

The Air District is here to support your work and available to work with as needed. The Air District does not review these plans; however, we will provide comments if requested.

As you work towards the development of your school district's plan, please note the Tuolumne County Air Pollution District may be able to assist. Funding is limited and often competitive, but the following programs are available:

Carl Moyer Program

The Carl Moyer Program provides limited competitive funding for zero-emission school buses and associated infrastructure. More information on this funding, eligibility criteria, and how to apply can be found by contacting the Air District.

Other State and Federal Grants

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) of 2010 allows EPA to offer rebates in addition to grants to reduce harmful emissions from older, dirtier diesel vehicles. The rebate program has funded vehicle replacements or retrofits for over 2,000 vehicles. Typically, the rebate application period opens in the fall and projects are completed in less than one year. More information for the Federal Environmental Program Agency School Bus Rebates can be found online at DERA <https://www.epa.gov/dera/rebates>.

Additional information regarding transportation and air quality is in "Attachment A" below.

School districts that receive and consider the information provided in this document are considered to have consulted adequately with the Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District and nothing further is needed unless directed by the State. If further consultation is desired, please feel free to reach out to our office.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelle Schroeder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Kelle Schroeder
Air Pollution Control Officer

Enclosure

Attachment A

Transportation and Air Quality Information in Relation to School Aged Children

South Coast Air Quality Management District studies indicate that residing or spending significant amounts of time near sources of traffic pollution is associated with adverse health effects, such as the exacerbation of asthma, onset of childhood asthma, non-asthma respiratory symptoms, impaired lung function, reduced lung development during childhood, and cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. These associations are diminished with distance and time from the pollution source. Given the association between traffic pollution and health, many recommend that residences, schools, and other sensitive uses be sited at least 500 feet from freeways, in particular. The Health Effects Institute (HEI) indicates that exposure to traffic pollution may occur up to 300 to 500 meters (approximately 984 to 1640 feet). The range reported by HEI reflects the variable influence of background pollution concentrations, meteorological conditions, and seasons. In addition, siting parks and active recreational facilities near freeways may increase public exposure to harmful pollutants, particularly while exercising. Studies show that heavy exercise near sources of traffic pollution may have adverse health effects.

In addition, there is a direct link between transportation activities and air pollution. Mobile sources of pollution, such as cars, trucks, buses, construction equipment, trains, and airplanes, account for 60 percent of all smog producing emissions in the region. Additionally, freeways and highways further contribute to the conditions that produce air pollution. The continued population growth that is projected for Sacramento Valley could threaten air quality gains unless careful attention is paid to voluntary and regulatory measures that reduce transportation-related emissions.

Developing land and transportation systems to reduce the need for vehicle trips and provide alternative modes of transportation can improve air quality. In addition, integrating land use plans, transportation plans, and air quality management plans can help minimize exposure to toxic air pollutant emissions from industrial and other stationary sources.

Older, more polluting school buses can lead to significant health risks for students who typically ride these buses for one-half to two hours a day. Children are more susceptible to air pollution than healthy adults because their respiratory systems are still developing, and they have faster breathing rates. Asthma, which affects 6.3 million American school children, is the most common long-term childhood disease in America, making newer, cleaner buses an urgent priority.

In addition to affecting the health of students, emissions from older buses can have a negative impact on the whole community. Particulate matter (PM) damages hearts and lungs. Other diesel emissions contribute to ozone pollution, climate change, and acid rain. Older buses are excellent candidates for replacement with newer, cleaner vehicles

which will greatly reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust and provide considerable safety improvements.

If school buses built between 1998 and 2010 are still in use, there are ways to reduce the emissions they produce.

- Idle Reduction - Implementing an idle reduction program is a simple, cost-effective way to reduce emissions while saving money on fuel and preventing engine wear and tear.
- Retrofit Technologies - For older buses that will be used for several more years, retrofitting them with emission controls or idle reduction technologies can be a cost-effective way to reduce emissions.
- Engine Replacements - Older diesel engines can be replaced with newer engines using diesel, biodiesel or compressed natural gas (CNG). The new engine should be certified to meet the most recent emission standards and come with a diesel particulate filter (DPF) or diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC).
- Fuel Selection – Electrification and cleaner fuels such as biodiesel or compressed natural gas (CNG) can further reduce emissions from school buses.

When replacing buses built between 1998 and 2010, the school district should check with nearby school districts. If the neighboring districts are operating older buses and cannot afford brand new buses, they may be able to use the relatively newer buses as a replacement alternative. Overall, this is a win-win situation for the whole community.

2023/2024 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name: Summerville Union High School District

CDS Code: 55007241300000

LEA contact information:
Michael Merrill, Superintendent
209-928-3498



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Gilbert Hammerbeck
Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation

Angela Howard
Transportation Specialist

Office Hours
7:30am to 4:00pm

Contact Information
17555 Tuolumne Road
Tuolumne, CA 95379
(209) 928-4228
(209) 928-3498

INTRODUCTION

Per Education Code (EC) Section 39800.1, 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. 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. Nothing in a local educational agency's plan shall preclude a local educational agency from providing no-cost transit passes to pupils.

The District's Pupil Transportation Plan is designed to provide safe and consistent transportation services for our families specifically emphasizing our primary and special needs students. Specifics of the Transportation Plan are codified in the Summerville Union High School District's Board Policies and Administrative Regulations. The District operates its own bus service.

OUR DISTRICT

Summerville Union High School District is in a rural county of the Motherlode. According to the most recent US Census Bureau quick facts the county has a population of approximately 55,810 that is primarily made up of 78.3% Caucasian and 13.7% Hispanic residents. The ethnic breakdown of students attending the Summerville Union High School District is reflective of the community with 67.3% Caucasian, 17.4% Hispanic, and 15.3% of other ethnicities represented. The Summerville UHSD has one comprehensive high school with an embedded dependent charter school, one alternative high school, three necessary small schools and an independent study and adult education program. Summerville Union High School District serves the southeastern parts of Tuolumne County. Residents living in the Summerville Union High School District area speak, for the most part, English as a primary language and are of low to middle income households with 46% of the students in the district qualifying for free and reduced-price Meals (FRPM). Our population of Foster Youth is less than 1% of the student population. When compared to other school districts in Tuolumne County, SUHSD has an average parent education level with a high number of parents who are high school graduates. The number of English Language Learners is less than 1% for the schools included in the Summerville Union High School District.

Vision Statement:

Summerville High School: Preparing students for college, career and life.

Mission Statement:

By providing quality education, Summerville High School prepares students to become effective communicators, critical thinkers and responsible citizens who value lifelong learning.

The Core Values of our Professional Staff:

1. Improving Student Learning

We strive always to improve student learning. Our aim is to prepare all students for success in college, career, and service to the community. We expect all students to learn at the levels necessary for success, and we modify our instruction to ensure that all students learn.

2. Teamwork

We work in teams. We value collaboration, cooperation, and communication to best work together to maximize student learning. We believe we all work better when the school community works together: teachers, support staff, parents, community, and students. We are adaptable, flexible, and consistent.

3. Respect

We respect one another, our students, our workplace, the work we do, and the community we serve. Our students learn best in a safe, clean, positive atmosphere of caring, empathy, and sincerity. We prepare students for success by consistently modeling responsible behavior and responsiveness to student needs.

4. Professionalism

We are professionals, and we serve students at a professional level. We know how to do our work effectively and we learn from experience. We are committed to continuous improvement of all aspects of our institution. We set clear goals and follow through to meet them with consistency, integrity, and dedication. We hold ourselves accountable for student learning and work to improve it.

DESCRIPTION OF TRASPORTATION SERVICES

Summerville Union High School District has 5 school buses serving the transportation needs of all of our schools. The department provides services for the transportation of activity trips throughout Tuolumne County and Northern California that support the educational activities of the schools, including curricular, extra-curricular and athletic trips for students.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the district's school bus fleet traveled 62,422 miles. Approximately 26,180 regular education and NSS students were transported to and from their respective schools on our 5 buses and 7 students during summer school with our white fleet for an additional 161 miles. SUHSD also provides transportation for the After School Program students that currently supports 4-10 students 4 days a week traveling 25-30 miles a day. There were 20 activity trips (curricular, extra-curricular) that utilized the bus fleet. Our sports program reopened in July 2022 which filled up each day for each month utilizing the buses and white fleet for travel.

Summerville Union High School District offers home-to-school transportation to all students. 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:

1. Middle school:

Grades 7-8: one mile

2. High School:

Grades 9-12: two miles

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN, FOSTER YOUTH AND PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES

Summerville Union High School District offers transportation services in the least restrictive environment to all homeless students, foster youth and pupils with disabilities that meet the criteria for severely disabled and/or non-ambulatory.

The department also supports its special needs, homeless and foster youth students by providing transportation services for activity trips throughout Tuolumne County and Northern California that support the educational activities of the schools, including curricular, extra-curricular and athletic trips for students of the District.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The transportation plan is being developed in consultation with stakeholders composed of classified staff, teachers, parents, students, and administrators as well as other members of the public. The plan is posted on the district website at www.summbears.net and has been emailed to key stakeholders who were asked to provide input on the proposed plan. In addition to providing feedback via our district website posting, public comments may be submitted at the Summerville Union High School District Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ALLOWANCE CALCULATION

Transportation Services Allowance Data		
A.	Total 2021-22 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	\$680,809.85
B.	Less Capital Outlay (Object 6xxx, Function 3600)	(\$61,117.93)
C.	Less Non-Agency Expenditures (Goal 7110, 7150, Function 3600)	\$0
D.	Estimated 60% Reimbursement	\$371,815.24
E.	Less 2021-2022 Transportation Add-on From LCFF	(\$276,483.00)
Total HTS Transportation Reimbursement		\$95,332.15

EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	
2000-2999: Classified Salaries	\$298,050.01
3000-3999: Employee Benefits	\$126,402.19
4000-4999: Books and Supplies	\$164,193.69
5000-5999: Services and Other Operating Expenditures	\$31,046.03
6000-6999: Capital Outlay	\$61,117.93
7000-7999: Other Outgo	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$680,809.85

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUHSD PREVIEW OF PUPIL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

SUHSD Families,

In accordance with Education Code 39800.1, Summerville Union High School District is soliciting public input on the proposed Pupil Transportation Plan for the 2023/2024 school year.

The District's Pupil Transportation Plan is designed to provide safe and consistent transportation services for our families with a specific emphasis on our primary and special needs students. Specifics of the Transportation Plan are codified in the Summerville Union High School District's Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

Please preview the proposed plan and provide feedback by March 21, 2023. This plan is recommended to the board of education, with the goal to implement in the 2023/2024 school year.

The plan will be reviewed annually per Education Code 39800.1