

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Home To School Transportation Plan**

**Background**

In 2013-14, with 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 2012-13 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 COLA, were applied to the formula. Consequently, the Transportation Add-On remains fixed with the amount for Santee permanently set at \$387,541.

Prior to 2013-14, the amount of funding provided by the State for Home to School Transportation was insufficient to cover the actual costs. Consequently, most school districts were forced to contribute other unrestricted general fund dollars to the program (“District Contribution to HTS Transportation”). Because the Transportation Add-On did not increase each year, the District Contribution to HTS Transportation grew over time as costs escalated. For 2022-23, Santee’s costs for both General Education and Special Education transportation were \$1,728,636 producing a District Contribution to HTS Transportation from the unrestricted general fund equal to \$715,189.

Due to advocacy efforts by several state-wide organizations representing school district Governing Boards and Administrators, for the first time in more than 10 years, the 2022-23 enacted State Budget included additional funding for HTS Transportation of \$637 million. 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 allow Santee to receive additional funding of approximately \$625,906 per year.

**Current Transportation Services**

The District currently owns 22 school busses: 8 large busses (60 or more passengers) and 14 small busses (25 or less passengers). In addition, the District owns four (4) ten (10) passenger vans. These vehicles traveled a total of 328,526 miles in the 2022-2023 school year.

The District currently operates a total of 13 routes; 3 for General Education students and 10 for Special Education students serviced by a total of 13 school bus drivers, 3 van drivers, and 5 bus attendants. In addition, the District provides transportation for students to the Boys and Girls Club and Santee Teen Center (City of Santee) under contract with those entities (“Outside Entities”). Finally, the District, on average, transports students on 270-275n field trips each year.

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For 2023-24, the District is transporting 226 General Education students, 125 Special Education students, and 125 students to Outside Entities.

Transportation for General Education students is currently provided for students residing in the boundaries of, and attending, Chet F Harritt, Hill Creek, Pepper Drive, and PRIDE Academy due to the need to cross busy, multi-lane streets to walk to these schools.

Transportation for Special Education students is provided for those receiving services at a school other than their school of residence or because of the severity of their disability, as specified in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). These students are currently transported to Cajon Park, Carlton Hills, Carlton Oaks, Chet F Harritt, Hill Creek, Rio Seco, Sycamore Canyon, and various non-public schools. The District provides reimbursement to parents monthly who opt to transport their own child(ren) receiving Special Education services to and from school for the total miles driven at the standard mileage rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

**Priority for TK-6 and Low Income Students**

The District will prioritize the transporting of General Education students in Grades TK through 6 and low income students by doing the following:

- Establish non-service zones (“Non-Service Zone”) within the following radius distances from each school. Students must reside outside the Non-Service Zone for their home school (school of residence = school of attendance) to receive transportation:
  - TK – 6 = 1.0 mile
  - Grades 7-8 = 1.5 miles, as space allows
- The Governing Board may make exceptions to the Non-Service Zones based on special circumstances.
- Establish bus stops at designated locations using criteria established by the California Highway Patrol and consistent with the recognition of each school’s Non-Service Zone.
- Require submission of an application to receive General Education transportation service before the beginning of each school year to include home address, school of attendance, grade level and household income level.
- Determine the maximum capacity of bus routes (“Route Maximum Capacity”).
- Assign students to routes in the following order until the Route Maximum Capacity is reached:
  - Students residing in households with an income level at or below the “low income” threshold”,

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- Students in grades TK-6 residing in households with an income level above the “low income” threshold, and
- Students in grades 7-8 residing in households with an income level above the “low income” threshold.
- Add any students without a route assignment for which an application was received to a Waiting List to be contacted at a later date should space become available on the route

**Accessibility for Students With Disabilities and Homeless Youth**

Students with disabilities will continue to be provided transportation services, when specified in their IEP, in accordance with the current process. This process involves determining whether a student requires transportation, either because of the severity of their disability or because they must attend a school other than their school of residence to receive the services they need, and then what level of service they require, either station-to-station or curb-to-curb. Station-to-station is the default level of service in which pickup and drop-off is provided at the student’s school of residence or other centralized location determined by the District. Curb-to-curb service, whereby the student is picked up and dropped off at the safest location closest to their home, is only provided for students with severe physical disabilities or delay in social, emotional, or cognitive development such that they cannot independently navigate even the minimal distances required for station-to-station transportation. Parents of students qualifying for station-to-station or curb-to-curb service can opt to receive reimbursement for all miles driven in lieu of taking District provided transportation, at the IRS determined rate, to transport their student to and from their school of attendance in their personal vehicle.

Students designated as homeless are identified, monitored, and serviced by the Pupil Services department. Pupil Services will work with the family to ensure homeless students are transported to and from school. This can be accomplished by providing a free bus pass for the students to use the public bus system or by working with the Transportation Department to provide District transportation on existing bus routes.

**Free Transportation for Unduplicated Pupils**

Students receiving either General Education or Special Education transportation service, including Unduplicated Pupils -- defined as students who are low socio-economic, English learners, or foster youth -- will receive District transportation service at no charge.

**Prior Stakeholder Consultation for Original Plan**

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

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<b><u>Stakeholder Group</u></b>	<b><u>Method</u></b>	<b><u>Date(s)</u></b>
<b><i>Classified Staff</i></b>	-Discussion at Employer-Employee Relations Committee meeting -On-Line Survey	January 10, 2023
<b><i>Teachers</i></b>	-Discussion at Employer-Employee Relations Committee meeting -On-Line Survey	January 30, 2023
<b><i>School Administrators</i></b>	-Discussion at Principals Logistics Meeting -On-Line Survey	January 19, 2023
<b><i>Regional Local Transit Authority(ies)</i></b>	Email	Response received January 17, 2023 from SDMTS with no input
<b><i>Local Air Pollution Control District</i></b>	Email	TBD
<b><i>Local Air Management District</i></b>	N/A	N/A
<b><i>Parents</i></b>	-Discussion at Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Community Input Session -On-Line Survey	February 28, 2023
<b><i>Pupils</i></b>	On-Line Survey	TBD
<b><i>Other Stakeholders</i></b>	On-Line Survey	TBD