

Merced City Elementary School District Transportation Plan 2023-24 and 2024-25

Transportation Services:

1. Enter description of transportation services offered to pupils, and how it will prioritize planned transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 - 6 inclusive and pupils who are low income. Plan may provide for the LEA to partner with municipally owned transit system to provide services to middle and high school students. An LEA may provide no-cost transit passes to students.

Merced City School District will be using additional transportation funding to help offset costs related to the expansion of transitional kindergarten, and grades 1-8, inclusive of pupils who are low income. The District's current transportation program provides services to all TK-8 students within District boundaries. MCSD also provides transportation services for students to specialized programs at schools within the District's attendance boundaries. All home-to-school transportation services are presently offered to eligible students at no cost. The District has developed plans and is actively pursuing zero-emission school buses for a healthier environment for our students and the community. Zero-emission transportation will benefit our community by decreasing the carbon footprint and addressing concerns about climate change while building a safer community.

2. Enter description of LEA's transportation services that would be accessible to pupils with disabilities, and homeless children and youth.

In addition to the general education population, Merced City School District transportation services would be accessible to students with disabilities, homeless, and foster youth as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. These students are provided priority transportation services as requested by the school site of attendance.

3. Enter description of how unduplicated pupils, would be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no-cost to the pupils.

Merced City School District provides transportation services to unduplicated pupils, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 42238.02, "unduplicated pupil" means a pupil enrolled in a school district who is either classified as an English learner, eligible for a free or reduced-priced meal, or is a foster youth, and all pupils who are low-income. The access to transportation services would be provided at no cost to the pupils. Access to school of attendance may be based on eligibility of distance from home-to-school, as described in Board Policy for walking distances versus eligible bus riders.

Consultations:

Enter description of the required plan 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.

Prior to adoption of the original plan in 2022-23, we received feedback through a survey shared with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, parents, pupils and other stakeholders. An email was also submitted to the San Joaquin Valley Air District and Pollution Control Board for additional information on how to improve our District's transportation program.

Board Approval Date: *March 28, 2023*

The Transportation plan was developed in accordance with Education Code Sections 39800.1 and 41850.1.