



Central Union High School District TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PLAN

**March 14, 2023
(Plan for Fiscal 2022-23 and 2023-24)**

Board Adopted: 3/14/2023



Central Union High School District

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PLAN

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 services pursuant to this section to 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.

OUR DISTRICT

The Central Union High School District (CUHSD) is the 3rd largest school district in Imperial County educating over 4,000 students from the City of El Centro and towns and/ or school districts from Seeley, Heber, Meadows, McCabe and El Centro Elementary School District. The District includes two comprehensive high schools, one alternative school of choice, one continuation high school, an adult education center and an independent study school. The District was established in 1908.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

The City of El Centro, according to the United States Census Bureau in 2020, has an estimated population of 44,874. The City has a diverse population with the largest ethnic group being Hispanic or Latino which constitutes 84.9% of the population. The poverty rate in El Centro and surrounding areas is high with approximately 27.7% of the population living below the poverty line. This is significantly higher than the state average poverty rate of 14.3% for the State of California. The District's 2022-23 Unduplicated Pupil Percentage, which represents three categories of students - English Language Learners, Low Income Students (pupils eligible for free and reduced price meals) and Foster Youth, constitutes 78% of our student population. Given that this is a very large percentage of our student population, our priority and focus is to provide free, no charge, quality transportation services to all of our students especially the most needy.

DESCRIPTION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Central Union High School District has 22 school buses serving the transportation needs of five (5) schools – Southwest High, Central High, Desert Oasis High, Phoenix Rising High and Mt. Signal Virtual Academy. The department provides services for the transportation of activity trips throughout Imperial County and Southern 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 140,931_ miles. Approximately 562 regular education students and 28 special needs students were transported to and from their respective schools daily, resulting in approximately 203,587 student boardings. There were 246 activity trips (curricular, extra-curricular and athletic) that utilized the bus fleet, which was a lower number than the previous years due to various Covid-19 restrictions.

Central Union High School District offers free home-to-school transportation to all general education students who qualify by living within their school of attendance boundaries and who do not fall within the walking distance limit established as per Board Administrative Regulation 3541. The current walking distance is 2.0 miles for general education students in 9th through 12th grades. The 2.0 mile radius was reduced from the previous 2.5 mile radius after community and school administration input and Board of Trustee approval to improving and increasing transportation services in 2019. Since then, the District has purchased 6 new buses and have added 4 bus drivers and transportation aides to the Department.

The District also added three (3) new bus routes to the previously established twelve (12) routes. These new routes were strategically established throughout the District in order to provide safe transportation services for students based on student need, traffic areas and highway restrictions. This three new bus routes included adding two (2) for general education and one (1) for Special Education.

At the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year, the District entered into an agreement with Schneider Electric, Inc. to provide consulting and facility contractor services to build an Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Improvement Project that would provide the District with EV charging stations. This infrastructure is needed as the District has received approval for seven (7) regular and one (1) Special education EV buses for the District through the HVIP Public School Bus Set-Aside Grant. The District will use the EV buses to replace eight old diesel buses that many have over 300,000 miles of travel. Also, many of these old buses do not have HVAC capabilities. The new EV buses have HVAC and hence will provide our students, most who are low income, with comfortable transportation services.

As part of improving student accountability in 2022-23 and beyond, the District entered into an agreement with Zonar Systems, Inc. The Zonar System is a telemetry/GPS system that includes Student Safety Management services. The system will provide the District with the capability of knowing when and where our student gets on/off the bus, provide the District when there is a change or delay in the route based on the GPS feature in the system, and parents can check on their students bus route using their mobile device which can help them personally plan for any possible modification to the bus route.

Each student, using a smart card ID provided by the District, is scanned each time they board and exit their bus. The scanner, which is installed on the bus, logs their student ID number, date, location and time of that scan. This information is immediately, and securely, available to the authorized parent on their MyView mobile app. Parents can be instantly alerted in the app or via text when their rider gets on and off the bus. Also, they would receive timely updates regarding bus or route changes. The Zonar System will also help the District by improving and tracking bus operations including bus ridership by route over time.

Another very important feature of Zonar is the Electronic Verified Inspection Reporting (EVIR) system. This system provided our bus drivers and the District with electronic information that the driver did inspect the bus as required prior to using the vehicle for the day. The system verifies that every inspection took place, that sanitization did occur, and that child-check is performed correctly as the results are captured in the system. This is done when the driver physically scans each location tag placed in the bus as they go through the inspection process. As they complete the inspection, the driver can mark defects, add notes and capture photos in the system. This information is then uploaded to the Ground Traffic Control module in Zonar. Drivers will use their tablets or smartphone to complete this process. As a priority, all of these features are provided through Zonar for student accountability, transporting students safely and on time.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR LOW INCOME, HOMELESS, FOSTER YOUTH AND PUPILS WITH DISABILITY STUDENTS.

The Central Union High School District, as a priority, offers free transportation services to all low income, homeless and foster youth students. Transportation services are also provided for pupils with disabilities that meet the criteria for severely disabled and/or non-ambulatory.

Also, just as important and a priority, students with disabilities are provided free transportation services in the least restrictive environment. Student continue to be provided services when specified in their IEP in accordance with the current process. This process involves determining whether a student requires transportation because of their disability or because they must attend a school other than their school of residence to receive the services needed and/or the level of services required.

Students designated as homeless are identified, monitored and serviced by the Family Resource Services Department. Family Resource Services will work with the family to ensure homeless students are transported to and from school. This can be accomplished by working with the Transportation Department or receiving public bus passes with the Imperial Valley Transit System. The District is seeking to offer free bus passes for any student that has transportation needs through the Imperial Valley Transportation Commission/Imperial Valley Transit.

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

The following are excerpts from the District's Board Administrative Regulation 3541:

- The District shall provide home-to-school transportation and additional transportation services as needed for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education program or Section 504 plan. (Education Code 41850; 20 USC 1400-1482; 34 CFR 104.4, 300.17, 300.34)
- The Superintendent or designee shall provide transportation to homeless students in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. When the student resides outside of district boundaries, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district of residence to apportion the responsibility and costs of transportation. (42 USC 11432)
- The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to determine the provision, arrangement, and funding of transportation to enable foster youth to attend their school of origin when it is in the student's best interest to do so. (20 USC 6312)

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PLAN

The transportation service plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders composed of classified staff, teachers, parents, students, and administrators. The District also consulted with the Imperial County Transportation Commission, Imperial Valley Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD), Imperial County Public Health Department (ICPHD) and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), El Centro Police Department (School Resource Officer) for their input and recommendations. The District worked in collaboration with the ICPHD Safe Routes to School Project to provide transportation interventions including, but not limited to:

- Walk Audits
- Walk to School Events
- Direct Education on Pedestrian, Bicycle and Bus Stop Safety using evidence-based curriculum from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

The District has a partnership with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and has received grant funding through the Imperial County Community Emissions Reduction Program. The purpose of the grant funding was to reduce dust/dirt and other particles from being emitted into the air which is harmful to students and the public. The District used this funding to pave approximately 50,000 sq. ft. of loose dirt in order to reduce human exposure to airborne particulates. The District has also partnered with ICAPCD to receive additional grant funding for EV buses to replace older diesel buses with high emissions and new accompanying charging stations in support of these EV buses. The District continues to work on moving to lower-emission buses as our fleet ages out.

The plan is posted on the District website at <https://www.cuhsd.net/Departments/Transportation/index.html> 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 Central Union High School District during the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

The following is a breakdown of the Transportation Department’s expenditures for the 2021-22 fiscal year. This breakdown will help us to determine the estimated amount the District will receive under the State’s Home-to-School Transportation Reimbursement Program.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ALLOWANCE CALCULATION

Transportation Services Allowance Data		
A.	Total 2021-22 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	\$ 1,700,222.04
B.	Less Capital Outlay (Object 6xxx, Function 3600)	0
C.	Less Non-Agency Expenditures (Goal 7110, 7150, Function 3600)	0
D.	Estimated 60% Reimbursement	\$ 1,020,133.22
E.	Less 2021-2022 Transportation Add-on From LCFF	(\$ 210,945.00)

Total HTS Transportation Reimbursement \$ 809,188.22

EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	
2000-2999: Classified Salaries	\$ 911,907.77
3000-3999: Employee Benefits	\$ 400,396.95
4000-4999: Books and Supplies	\$ 348,539.88
5000-5999: Services and Other Operating Expenditures	\$ 39,377.44
6000-6999: Capital Outlay	0
7000-7999: Other Outgo	0

Total Expenditures \$ 1,700,222.04