

Beaumont Unified School District
Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Department



Transportation Services Plan

2024 - 2027

DRAFT

Board of Trustees Adopted: March 19, 2024

This plan was developed in consultation with staff, regional transit authorities, local air pollution control districts, air quality management districts, parents, and students.

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DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Beaumont Unified School District (BUSD) shall provide high-quality educational opportunities for all students in a safe and secure learning environment through a shared commitment among home, school, and community.

TRANSPORTATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Beaumont Unified School District Transportation Department is to support the educational process by providing safe and efficient transportation to the students of our District; to work collaboratively with staff, Districtwide, to ensure student transportation prepares the student for learning and is a productive extension of the classroom; and to encourage and sustain trust with our parents as well as the members of our community.

PURPOSE

In accordance with Education Code 39800.1, the District *shall develop a plan describing the transportation services it will offer to its pupils and how it will prioritize planned transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten and any grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and pupils who are low income. The plan shall be adopted by the local educational agency's governing board on or before April 1, 2023, and updated by April 1 each year after.*

The Beaumont Unified School District Board of Trustees policy provides that students residing beyond a prescribed distance from their school of residence shall be eligible for home-to-school and school-to-home bus transportation services.

The current walking distance for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through grade 5 is one mile. The distance is determined by placing a boundary around the school site with a radius of one mile.

The District may authorize transportation service within the minimum distance when special circumstances, problems, or hazards exist. Transportation fees may apply when service is made available due to special circumstances.

Transportation of secondary students (grades 6-12) is provided through a partnership with Beaumont Transit. Beaumont Transit currently provides three bus routes from different areas within the city to stops at our middle and high schools.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Beaumont Unified School District's Transportation Department plays an essential role in supporting students' education and extracurricular activities. Below are key details regarding its operations:

FLEET AND ROUTES

The BUSD Bus Fleet includes:

- 15 transit buses
- 14 small buses (10 equipped with wheelchair lifts)
- 16 passenger vans (6 equipped with wheelchair lifts)

All vehicles meet California Emission Standards, and the District is progressively adding zero-emissions vehicles to further reduce environmental impact.

The District currently operates:

- 6 Home to School routes
- 19 Special Education routes

SERVICE SCOPE

Transportation Services provides support for:

- Over 600 students with daily transportation to and from school
- More than 560 athletic events throughout the school year
- Over 770 field trips annually

STAFF

The Transportation Department is supported by a dedicated team of:

- 20 bus drivers
- 5 support staff

This team works tirelessly to ensure the safe and efficient transportation of students to their daily educational programs, as well as to a wide range of extracurricular activities and special events throughout the year.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Transportation services are provided for and described in Board Policies 3540 and 3541.2, and Administrative Regulations 3541, 3541.1, 3542, and 3543.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY - STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The District desires to meet the transportation needs of Students with Disabilities (SWDs) to enable them to benefit from Special Education and related services. Therefore, the District shall provide appropriate transportation services, at no cost, for a SWDs when the District is the student's district of residence and the transportation services are required by his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan.

PRIORITIZATION OF SERVICE

In the event that there is more demand than space available, the District will consider the following when prioritizing bus riders:

- Students who are in TK, kindergarten (K), and students in grades 1-5
- Pupils who are Low Income, Homeless, Foster Youth, English Learners (ELs), or SWDs

TRANSPORTATION FEES

If the District determines that special circumstances warrant the provision of transportation services inside the established boundary, the District may provide transportation services for those students who qualify. The purchase of a bus pass will be required. Fees will not apply for any unduplicated student pursuant to California Education Code Section 42238.02.

BUS PASSES

All students must have a bus pass to ride the bus. Bus passes are issued to qualified students by the Transportation Department at the beginning of the school year. The replacement of a lost bus pass will require a fee in accordance with District policy. Students who do not have a bus pass will not be allowed to ride the bus.

2024-25 ANNUAL BUS PASS PRICES

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| ● TK-K | \$130.00 |
| ● Grades 1-5 | \$200.00 |
| ● Foster Youth and Homeless | \$0.00 |
| ● Special Education | \$0.00 |
| ● Unduplicated Pupil Population (UPP) | \$0.00 |
| ● Replacement Pass | \$5.00 |

BUS STOP DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

Students in grades TK through 2 are required to have a designated adult at the bus stop to receive them. However, parents of TK through grade 2 students may complete a waiver allowing their child to walk home unattended. This form is available from the bus driver or can be obtained through the bus pass application.

Students in grades 3 through 5 do not require an adult to meet them at the bus stop and will be dropped off without supervision.

If a designated person is not present to receive a TK through grade 2 student, the student will be returned to their school of attendance. Parents will be responsible for picking up the student from the school site. Continued failure to meet the bus may result in the suspension of future transportation privileges.

SCHEDULED PICK-UP TIMES

Students should arrive at their bus stop no earlier than ten (10) minutes before the scheduled pick-up time and no later than five (5) minutes prior. On-time departures are crucial, as many buses are scheduled to serve multiple schools. When the bus is in sight, students should line up and be prepared to board.

FIELD TRIPS

The District may provide transportation for students, staff, and other individuals for field trips and other approved school-related activities, in accordance with Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

School-related organizations requesting transportation are responsible for covering the costs of their trips.

2024-25 FIELD TRIP RATES

- Monday-Friday \$60.00 per hour per bus
- Saturday-Sunday \$80.00 per hour per bus
- Holidays \$80.00 per hour per bus

In accordance with Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, the District Superintendent or designee may approve transportation for trips using private vehicles.

AUTHORITY OF THE DRIVER

CCR Title 5 Section 14103 states, *Pupils transported in a school bus or a school pupil activity bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway, or road. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus enroute between home and school or other destinations.*

BUS RIDER RULES

To ensure the safety of all passengers, the following rules must be followed at all times while riding the school bus, including during school activity trips. Riders who fail to comply with the rules listed below shall be reported to District staff, who will determine the severity of the misconduct and take action accordingly. In the case of a severe violation or repeated offenses, the rider may be denied transportation for a period of time determined by the District staff, in accordance with District Policy, up to the remainder of the school year.

Parents/guardians of all students who ride the bus will receive written safety information, including these rider rules.

GENERAL BUS CONDUCT

1. **Seat Belts:** All riders must wear seat belts at all times.
2. **Driver Instructions:** Riders must follow the bus driver's instructions at all times.
3. **Arrival at Bus Stop:** Riders should arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled pick-up time and wait quietly in a safe location.
4. **Boarding the Bus:** Riders must enter the bus in an orderly manner and proceed directly to their seats.
5. **Seated Behavior:** Riders are required to remain seated while the bus is in motion. The aisle must be kept clear at all times, and it should not be obstructed by legs, arms, or other objects. Riders are to remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop before proceeding to the exit.
6. **Behavior:** Orderly behavior is required while aboard the bus. Abusive body contact (fighting, slapping, hitting, poking, shoving, etc.) is not permitted. Students are to talk quietly. Shouting, yelling, boisterous behavior, horseplay, profane language, obscene gestures, or any unnecessary noise may distract the driver's attention and therefore is prohibited for the safety of all passengers.

7. **Courtesy:** Riders should be respectful and courteous to the bus driver and fellow passengers.
8. **Hands and Arms:** No part of the rider's body (hands, arms, or head) should extend outside the bus.
9. **Throwing Items:** Throwing objects from the bus is prohibited.
10. **Cleanliness:** Riders are expected to keep the bus and the area around the bus stop clean.
11. **Damage to Bus:** Riders must not damage or tamper with the bus or its equipment.
12. **Prohibited Items:** The possession of any weapons, firearms, or dangerous instruments—whether real or imitation—as well as drugs, tobacco, or nicotine products, is strictly prohibited. Additionally, animals, reptiles, insects, glass containers, and inflated balloons are not allowed on the bus.
13. **Safety After Departure:** Riders should be alert for traffic when leaving the bus.

MINOR OFFENSES

For minor offenses, the following steps will be taken:

1. **First Offense:** A verbal warning will be given.
2. **Second Offense:** If the student fails to respond to the verbal warning, a **Written Warning** (Notice of Unsatisfactory Conduct) will be issued, and parents will be notified by mail or phone.
3. **Subsequent Offenses:** If misbehavior continues, further penalties will apply:
 - **First Offense after a written warning:** Five (5) days suspension of bus riding privileges.
 - **Second Offense after a written warning:** Fifteen (15) days suspension of bus riding privileges.
 - **Third Offense after a written warning:** Complete revocation of bus riding privileges.

Copies of these notices will be sent to the student's school.

MAJOR OFFENSES

Major offenses may result in immediate and severe consequences. These include, but are not limited to:

- Open defiance or using obscenities, profanities, or racial slurs towards the bus driver or other passengers.
- Fighting or physical violence.
- Failure to provide your name to the driver or giving a false name when asked.
- Engaging in any act that seriously jeopardizes the safety of anyone on the bus.
- Smoking, vaping, or igniting any flammable materials (lighters, matches, etc.).
- Bringing weapons (knives, guns, razors, laser pointers, nun chucks, etc.) on the bus.
- Opening any emergency exit (except in an emergency) or exiting via an emergency exit or window.
- Bringing controlled substances (narcotics, drugs, explosives, fireworks, or alcohol) on the bus.
- Engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior or indecent exposure.

Any major offense may result in immediate suspension of bus riding privileges for a period determined by the District, up to the remainder of the school year, in accordance with District Policy.

These rules are designed to ensure a safe and pleasant experience for all riders.

USE OF VIDEO CAMERAS

Transportation department video cameras will be used on school buses to assist in the management of student behavior in accordance with District policies, rules, and regulations.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Students may bring electronic devices onto the bus **ONLY** if those items are permitted at school. Students may use cellular phones or similar devices only if they do not disrupt the safe operation of the school bus.

The District is not responsible for lost or damaged personal electronic equipment left on the bus.

BUS STOP BEHAVIOR

Students at the bus stop are subject to the same rules as when riding the bus. Students identified as causing vandalism at the bus stop or disrupting the bus may lose their bus-riding privilege.

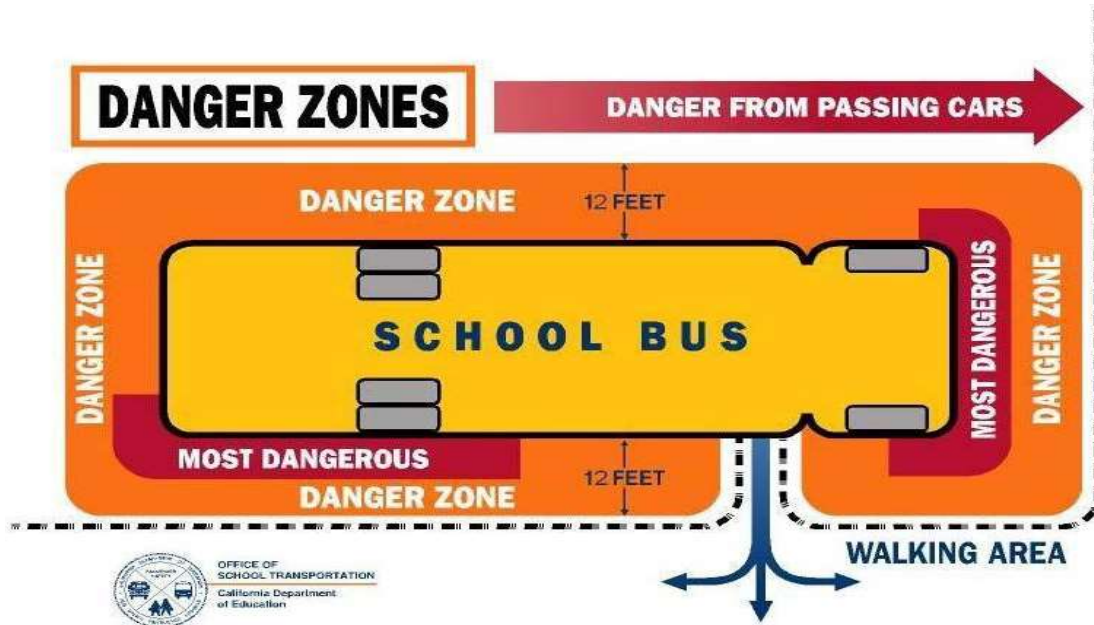
BUS STOP SAFETY

School bus drivers are required to activate the red flashing lights and stop signal arms at all bus stops where students are loading or unloading, except in the following situations:

- School bus loading zones on or adjacent to school grounds
- During activity trips
- When the school bus is disabled
- When students require assistance to board or exit the bus
- On roadways covered with snow and ice, where requiring traffic to stop could create a hazard
- On state highways with a posted speed limit of 55 mph or higher
- When the bus is completely off the highway
- At any location designated by the District and approved by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) where stopping presents a traffic or safety hazard

DANGER ZONES AROUND BUSES

Students are cautioned against entering the Danger Zone, which is the area twelve feet around the school bus. Students exiting the bus should remain in the clear view of the bus driver. Students are expected to travel directly home from the bus stop.



SAFE BUS OPERATIONS

A bus driver is prohibited from driving a school bus while using a wireless telephone or other devices.

A school bus shall not be operated whenever the number of passengers exceeds the bus seating capacity.

No unauthorized person may enter a school bus.

The District maintains a comprehensive transportation safety plan. Written safety information shall be provided to parents/guardians of all students who ride the bus.

Emergency bus evacuation drills shall be conducted annually.