



RUSD

RIVERSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

DRAFT 2023/2024 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



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OUR DISTRICT

With schools dating back to the 1870s, the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) is the 16th largest school district in California. Riverside Unified School District educates approximately 42,000 students across 50 schools in the City and County of Riverside. RUSD is led by its 12th Superintendent, Ms. Renee Hill, and is governed by a Board of Education comprised of publicly elected officials.

Riverside Unified School District is a unified school district encompassing an area of approximately 92 square miles located in the northwestern portion of Riverside County, about 47 miles east of the Los Angeles civic center. The District serves a large part of Riverside and the unincorporated areas of Highgrove and Woodcrest.

The District was established in 1963 through the unification of the Riverside City School District and the Riverside City High School District. The District operates 29 elementary schools, seven (7) middle schools, five (5) high schools, and nine (9) specialty schools consisting of one adult school, one alternative school of choice, two continuation high schools, one STEM academy, one virtual school, one opportunity school, one special education school, and one early childhood center for preschool students.

OUR MISSION

Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) provides engaging, innovative, and equitable learning experiences for all students.

OUR VALUES

Community: We work diligently to build bridges between our schools and community in order to create rich learning experiences and opportunities for all. Strategic connections with our partners are core to the success of the District.

Engagement: RUSD is committed to creating an engaging learning environment that promotes curriculum, programs, physical spaces, and the development of relationships that enable students to feel welcome, connected and inspired.

Equity: We are committed to implementing inclusive practices and policies that honor the rich diversity of our district and the greater region. With a focus on positive outcomes for all, we will work diligently to ensure all students have their needs met, strengths fostered, and graduate prepared for success.

Excellence: We value lifelong learning, personal integrity, achievement and accomplishment. We seek to inspire and empower students to reach their highest potential.

Innovation: RUSD is future-oriented in the design of its schools and educational programs. Personalization, creativity, and technology are central to the District's approach to preparing students for an increasingly fast-paced world.

Well-being: We cultivate graduates who succeed academically, are physically and mentally healthy, and are active and engaged citizens. The District strives to create safe and multidimensional educational environments that support students' development as they become well-rounded individuals.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Dr. Angelo Farooq
- Dr. Noemi Hernandez-Alexander
- Mr. Tom Hunt
- Mr. Dale Kinnear
- Mr. Brent Lee

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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 of 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 thereafter.

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 Riverside Unified School District's Board Policies and Administrative Regulations. The District does not operate its own bus service. Transportation is provided through a contracted service provider.

https://www.riversideunified.org/board_of_education

FIRST STUDENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PROVIDER

With more than a century of experience in providing safe and reliable transportation to students across the U.S. and Canada, First Student understands the priorities of today's K-12 community. First Student helps school districts build transportation solutions tailored to their community's needs. Their 50,500 dedicated employees complete 5 million student journeys per day. They are committed to our values and always keep safety in front of mind.

First Student is located in the City of Riverside with a team of over two hundred employees operating a fleet of 229 vehicles. A large portion of the fleet is clean air Compressed Natural Gas and Propane school buses with a compressive plan for partial electrification of the unleaded fleet beginning in the 2023/2024 school year.

Although First Student is a contracted transportation provider, they operate as an extension of the RUSD Transportation Department. Collaboratively

we provide transportation services for 5,500 home-to-school students. This includes special arrangements for our homeless and foster students as well as designated routes in support of various after-school and intervention programs. In addition to daily home-to-school services, the Transportation Department provides transportation for 5,000+ field trips annually.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY - HOME-TO-SCHOOL

Busing Limits:

The Riverside Unified School District Board of Education policy provides that students residing beyond certain prescribed distances from their school of residence shall be eligible for home-to-school and school-to-home bus transportation services.

These distances are:

- Beyond one and a quarter (1.25) miles for Transitional Kindergarten through Third Grade (TK-3).
- Beyond two and a quarter (2.25) miles for Fourth grade through Sixth grade (4-6).
- Beyond ten (10) miles for Seventh through Twelfth Grade (7-12).

The distance is the shortest walking distance computed by measuring the mileage from the student's residence to the nearest entrance to the school site as determined by a school district designee.

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

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY - STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The District desires to meet the transportation needs of students with disabilities to enable them to benefit from special education and related services. Therefore, the District shall provide appropriate transportation services, at no cost, for a student with disabilities 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.

TRANSPORTATION FEES

If the District determines that special circumstances warrant the provision of transportation services inside the established boundary, the District may provide Parent Pay Busing for those students who qualify. Information on Parent Pay Busing, including prices, will be provided before the opening of each school year.

BUS PASSES

Secondary students, grades 7-12, 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.

2023/2024 ANNUAL BUS PASS PRICES

- Annual Round Trip \$480.00
- One Way Trip \$240.00
- 2-Payments Round Trip \$240.00
- 2-Payments One Way Trip \$120.00
- Replacement Pass \$ 20.00

Reduced fees are available for families based on District-verified financial needs.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students are required to have a designated person at the bus stop to receive them. However, parents of Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students may sign a waiver that allows the student to walk home unattended or to be picked up by someone else. This form may be obtained from your bus driver. All students in grades 1 through 12 do not need a designated person to receive them at the bus stop and will be dropped off without an adult there to meet them.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will be returned to their school of attendance if there is no one to receive the student at the bus stop. The parent will then be responsible for picking up the student(s) from the school site. Future transportation privileges may be suspended if a student is returned to school.

SCHEDULED PICK-UP TIMES

All students should arrive at their bus stop no earlier than ten (10) minutes before the scheduled stop time. Students should be at their bus stop no later than five (5) minutes before their scheduled pick-up time. Since most buses are scheduled for more than one school, on-time departures are essential. Once the bus is in sight, students should line up and be ready to board.

FIELD TRIPS

The District may provide transportation for students, employees, and other individuals for field trips and other school-related trips approved according to Board Policies and Administrative Regulations.

School-related organizations requesting transportation shall be fully responsible for the costs of their trips.

2023/2024 FIELD TRIP RATES

- C1 Rate - Dedicated Field Trip Bus Outside District
 - First 5 Hours - \$402.00
 - Each Additional Hour - \$38.00
 - Toll Road Charge - \$15.00
- C2 Rate - Trips Within the District
 - Flat Rate \$190.00
- C4 Rate - Charter Bus
 - Start at \$1,800 for First 5 Hours

Fees apply for late cancellations.

According to Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, the District Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation trips by private

vehicles. (AR 3541.1)

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 driver's authority shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus en route between home, school, or other destinations.

BUS RIDER RULES

Rules are in place to ensure the safe operation of a school bus. Parents/guardians of all students who ride a bus shall receive written safety information, including rider rules.

Violation of the bus rider rules may result in the revocation of bus riding privileges.

BUS CONDUCT

Riders must wear seat belts at all times. Because school bus passengers' behavior can directly affect their safety and the safety of others, the following regulations apply at all times when students are riding a school bus, including school activity trips. Riders shall follow the instructions and directions of the bus driver at all times.

Riders should arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled pick-up time and stand in a safe place to wait quietly for the bus.

Riders shall enter the bus in an orderly manner and go directly to their seats.

Riders shall remain seated while the bus is in motion and shall not obstruct the aisle with their legs, feet, or other objects. When reaching their

destination, riders shall remain seated until the bus stops, and only then enter the aisle and go directly to the exit.

Riders should be courteous to the driver and fellow passengers.

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.

No part of the body, hands, arms, or head should be put out of the window.

Nothing shall be thrown from the bus.

Riders shall help keep the bus and the area around the bus stop clean.

Riders shall not damage or deface the bus or tamper with bus equipment.

Animals, reptiles, or insects shall not be allowed on the bus.

Glass containers or inflated balloons shall not be allowed on the bus.

Riders should be alert for traffic when leaving the bus.

No weapons, imitation firearms, or dangerous instruments shall be allowed on the bus.

No drugs shall be used or carried on the bus.

No use or possession of tobacco or any tobacco or nicotine product shall be allowed on the bus.

Riders who fail to comply with the above rules shall be reported to District staff, who shall 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.

USE OF VIDEO CAMERAS

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

MINOR OFFENSES:

Typically, for minor offenses, the elementary student will be given a verbal warning for the first offense. If a student fails to respond to a verbal warning, a written Notice of Unsatisfactory Conduct will be issued as a written warning, and the parents will be notified by mail or phone. For students who continue to misbehave after receiving a warning, a Notice of Unsatisfactory Conduct will be issued, and the following penalties will apply: copies of these notices are sent to the student's school.

1. First offense after a warning: Three (3) days' suspension of bus riding privileges.
2. Second offense after a warning: Five (5) days' suspension of bus riding privileges.
3. Third offense after a warning: Ten (10) days' suspension of bus riding privileges.
4. Fourth offense after a warning: Thirty (30) days' suspension of bus riding privileges.
5. Fifth offense after a warning: Complete revocation of bus riding privileges.

MAJOR OFFENSES:

For major offenses, indefinite suspension or complete loss of bus privileges may result from the first offense. Infractions of the following rules are major offenses:

- Failure to wear a seat belt.
- Open defiance or directing obscenities, profanities, or racial slurs at the bus driver.

- Fighting. (Fighting is automatic suspension for all participants regardless of fault).
- 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 – anything - igniting any kind of flammable material or substance (lighters – matches, etc.)
- Bringing weapons - knives, guns, razors, laser pointers, nunchucks, (or look-alikes), etc. on the bus.
- Opening any emergency exit (except in an emergency) or exiting by any emergency exit or window.
- Bringing controlled substances - narcotics or other drugs, explosives, fireworks, or alcoholic beverages on the bus.
- Engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior or indecent exposure.

The revocation of bus riding privileges may be appealed in accordance with Riverside Unified School District Administrative Regulations 3545.1.

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 and School Bus Contractor 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

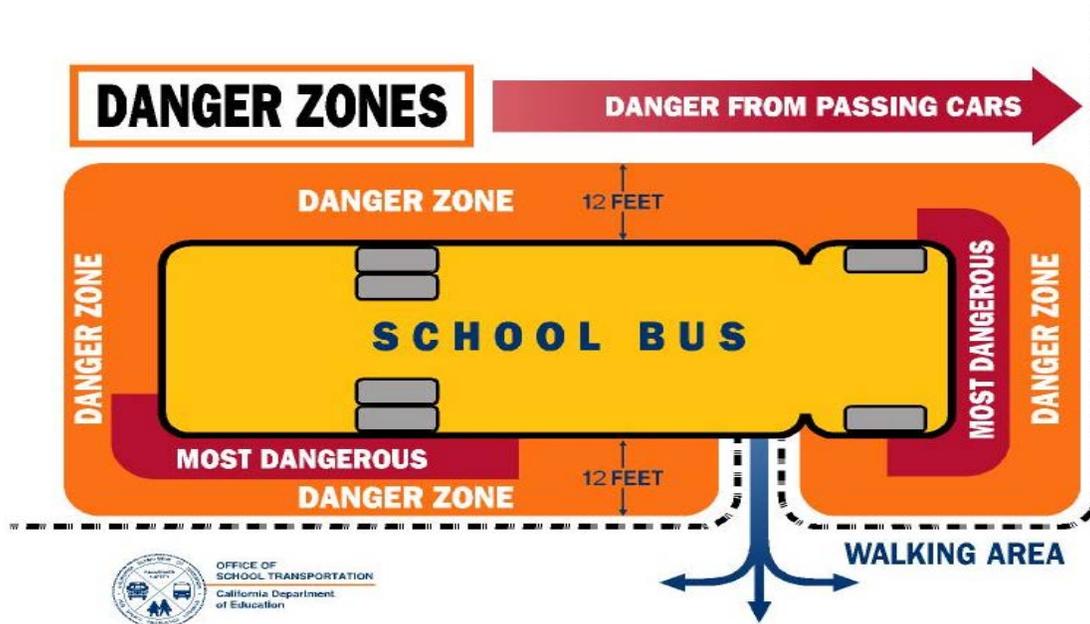
School bus drivers will activate red flashing lights and stop signal arms at all bus stops where pupils are loading or unloading from a school bus with the following exceptions:

- school bus loading zones on or adjacent to school grounds
- during activity trips

- where the school bus is disabled
- where pupils require assistance to board or leave the school bus
- where the roadway surface is covered by snow and ice and requiring traffic to stop would create a hazard
- on a state highway with a posted speed of 55 mph or higher
- where the school bus is completely off the highway
- or any location determined by the District, with the approval of the California Highway Patrol, to present 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.

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