

FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**Business and Noninstructional Operations
TRANSPORTATION FOR SCHOOL-RELATED TRIPS**

The County Superintendent may provide transportation for students, employees, and other individuals for field trips and other school-related trips approved according to County Superintendent and County Board policy and administrative regulation.

The County Superintendent or designee shall determine the most appropriate and cost-effective mode of transportation for each approved trip. The County Superintendent may authorize the use of County Superintendent owned vehicles, contract to provide transportation, or arrange transportation by the use of other vehicles.

When transportation is provided by the County Superintendent, students may be released from using transportation only with the advance written permission of their parents/guardians.

County Superintendent-related organizations requesting transportation shall be fully responsible for the costs of their trips unless funding has been approved by the County Superintendent.

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the vehicles used have sufficient liability insurance. When a trip to a foreign country is authorized, liability insurance shall be secured from a carrier licensed to transact insurance business in that country. (Education Code 35330)

Transportation by Private Vehicle

The County Superintendent or designee may authorize the transportation of students by private vehicle when the vehicle is driven by an adult age 21 or older who possesses a valid California driver's license or, if he/she is a nonresident on active military duty in California, possesses a valid license from his/her state of residence. To be approved, a driver shall have a good driving record and possess at least the minimum insurance required by law. Any person providing transportation to County Superintendent students in a private vehicle shall register for such purposes.

Drivers shall receive safety and emergency instructions. All student passengers shall submit permission slips signed by their parents/guardians. Teachers shall ensure that each driver has a copy of the permission slip for each student riding in his/her vehicle.

The number of passengers, including the driver, shall not exceed the capacity for which the vehicle was designed. Motor trucks may not transport more persons than can safely sit in the passenger compartment. The driver shall ensure that the manufacturer's recommendations for his/her vehicle are followed regarding the seating of children in seats equipped with airbags.

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The driver or any other person shall not smoke or have in his/her immediate possession a lighted pipe, cigar, or cigarette containing tobacco or any other plant when there is a minor in the motor vehicle, whether the motor vehicle is in motion or at rest. (Health and Safety Code 118948)

Passenger Restraint Systems

All drivers shall wear safety belts and shall ensure that all passengers are properly secured in seat belts or child passenger restraint systems in accordance with law (Vehicle Code 27315, 27360, 27360.5, 27363)

A child who is under age 8 years shall be properly secured in a rear seat in an appropriate child passenger restraint system meeting federal safety standards, except under any of the following circumstances: (Vehicle Code 27360, 27363)

1. The child is four feet nine inches or taller, in which case a safety belt may be used.
2. Use of a child passenger restraint system would be impractical by reason of physical unfitness, medical condition, or size and an appropriate special needs child passenger restraint system is not available.
3. There is no rear seat, the rear seats are side-facing jump seats or rear-facing seats, the child passenger restraint system cannot be installed properly in the rear seat, all rear seats are already occupied by children under age 8 years, or medical reasons necessitate that the child not ride in the rear seat.
4. The child is otherwise exempted by law.

Adopted: 03/19/1998

Amended: 05/18/2023

Legal Resources

Education Code

35330	Field trips and excursions; student fees
35332	Transportation by chartered airline
39830	School bus
39830.1	School pupil activity bus
39860	Transportation to school activities
44808	Liability when students are not on school property

Health & Safety Code

118947-118949	Prohibition against smoking in motor vehicle with minor
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Vehicle Code

12814.6	Teen driver's act
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27315 Mandatory use of seat belts in private passenger vehicles

27360-27360.5 Child passenger restraint systems

27363 Child passenger restraint systems, exemptions

545 School bus, definition

3541.1, 11/2011; Doc# 144451