

March 19, 2026

San José Unified Home-To-School Transportation Service Plan

Home-to-School (HTS) Transportation Reimbursement was implemented by Assembly Bill (AB) 181 (Chapter 52, Statutes of 2022) and amended by AB 185 (Chapter 571, Statutes of 2022). It provides reimbursement funding for school districts and county offices of education (COEs) based on prior year eligible transportation expenditures and prior year Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) transportation-related add-on funding in accordance with Education Code 39800.1

San Jose Unified School District is pleased to offer transportation services to eligible students attending its schools (BP 3540). General education students are considered eligible for transportation services if:

- They live within the boundaries of San Jose Unified
- They live outside the walking distances as defined in Administrative Regulation 3541:
 - Grades Transitional Kindergarten through fifth: beyond 1.5 miles
 - Grades six through 12: beyond 3.5 miles
 - Distances are calculated using the street network and recommended walking paths.
- Transportation within the walking distance may be authorized when special problems or hazards exist.

To ensure the District knows who has accepted transportation services, eligible students must submit an annual Application for Transportation. Students who are not otherwise eligible may also submit an application and may be offered services on a 'Courtesy' basis. Courtesy transportation is offered on a space- and/or stop-available basis where there must be reasonable space on the school bus and an active bus stop is reasonably nearby. Courtesy transportation is only offered via school bus.

Transportation services are typically provided via school bus or the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). The use of a certain service for transportation to a certain school, and from designated areas in the District, is determined at the discretion of the District.

With certain exceptions, service for eligible students to elementary schools (Grades TK-5) is provided via VTA. The exceptions, where service is provided on a school bus, include:

- Students attending Walter Bachrodt who live inside the attendance boundary of the school but beyond the 1.5 mile walking distance boundary.
- Students attending Graystone who live inside the attendance boundary of the school but beyond the 1.5 mile walking distance boundary or in the hazard area.
- Students attending Ernesto Galarza who live inside the attendance boundary of the school but beyond the 1.5 mile walking distance boundary.
- Students attending Los Alamitos who live inside the attendance boundary of the school but beyond the 1.5 mile walking distance boundary.
- Students attending Hammer, Hacienda or River Glen who live in a low Socio-Economic-Status geocode.
- Subject to Board of Education action on March 26, 2026, students attending a school that closes after the 2025-2026 school year who live in the attendance boundary of their newly assigned neighborhood school but beyond the 1.5 mile walking distance boundary.

Students living in the exception areas tend to be lower income and were a priority when considering what transportation service levels the district would be able to provide when the district realigned bell times in the 2021-22 school year.

With certain exceptions service for eligible general education students to secondary schools (Grades 6-12) is provided by school bus. The exceptions include:

- San Jose High and Willow Glen Middle and High students are provided service via VTA.
- Students who live in an area west of Highway 87 and north of San Carlos/Stevens Creek are provided service via VTA.
- Students who live south of the school's walking distance boundary are provided service via VTA.
 - An exception to this rule are students attending Leland High and Bret Harte Middle who live in the south-end hazard area.
- Students attending Gunderson High who live within approximately one mile of the YTA Light Rail Line are provided with service via VTA.
- Students attending Pioneer High and John Muir Middle who live north of their walking distance boundary, south of San Carlos/Stevens Creek and west of highway 87 are provided service via VTA as they can easily access the lines that travel down Meridian and Lincoln and stop at the intersections of Almaden or Meridian at Branham and Blossom Hill where the students can easily walk to their school.

Students with disabilities who have transportation as a related service in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) are provided with transportation (BP 3541.2). Service is provided in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). When the IEP specifies service is to be provided by the District, it is provided via school bus, district passenger van, contracted van, contracted car service, VTA and/or taxi.

Homeless students, who are eligible for transportation by the criteria above, or by Bus Service Request, are also provided transportation services via school bus, district passenger van, contracted van, contracted car service, VTA and/or taxi. The choice of service is dependent on factors such as where the student is currently residing, location of the attending school, availability of scheduled services and time in transit.

Eligible unduplicated students are offered transportation via school bus or VTA at the discretion of the District. If a student lives in an area serviced by school bus, the student is assigned to one of the District's standard bus stops and routes are crafted to service the stop. If an elementary student, who lives in a VTA area, applies for transportation, a free Adult VTA pass is automatically provided to the family so the student can be accompanied by a parent/guardian on the bus. It is the policy of San Jose Unified that students who qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch shall not be charged a fee for transportation.

