

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name	Contact Name and Title	Email and Phone
El Nido Elementary School District	Paula Heupel Superintendent/Principal	pheupel@elnido.k12.ca.us 209-385-8420



TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PLAN 2024-2025 and 2026

The district desires to provide for the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school as necessary to ensure student access to the educational program, promote regular attendance, and reduce tardiness. 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) providing reimbursement funding for school districts.

As a condition of receiving apportionments under Section 41850.1, a local educational agency 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.

(a) The plan shall be adopted by the local educational agency's governing board on or before April 1, 2025, and updated by April 1 each year thereafter. The plan shall include the following components:

- (1) A description of the local educational agency's transportation services that would be accessible to pupils with disabilities and homeless children and youth, as defined pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.).
- (2) A description of how unduplicated pupils, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 42238.02, would be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no cost to the pupils.

(b)(1) The plan shall be developed in consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, parents, pupils, and other stakeholders. (2) The plan shall be presented and adopted by the governing board of the local educational agency in an open meeting with the opportunity for in-person and remote public comment.

(c) The plan may provide for the local educational agency to partner with a municipally owned transit system to provide service pursuant to this section to middle school and high school pupils.

(d) Nothing in a local educational agency's plan shall preclude a local educational agency from providing no-cost transit passes to pupils.

(e) For purposes of this section, "local educational agency" means a school district or a county office of education.

General Information

A description of the LEA, its schools, and its students in grades transitional kindergarten–12, as applicable to the LEA.

The El Nido Elementary School District, located in rural Merced County, California, is a single school district in the unincorporated town of El Nido. The district's current enrollment is 160 students in grades Transitional Kindergarten through grade 8. The percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced priced meals is approximately 95%, English Learner population is approximately 57%, >1% Foster/Homeless, and 9% qualifying for Special Education services.

Transportation Services:

1. Enter description of transportation services offered to pupils, and how it will prioritize planned transportation services for pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 - 6 inclusive and pupils who are low income. Plan may provide for the LEA to partner with municipally owned transit system to provide services to middle and high school students. An LEA may provide no-cost transit passes to students.

2. Enter description of LEA's transportation services that would be accessible to pupils with disabilities, and homeless children and youth.

3. Enter description of how unduplicated pupils would be able to access available home-to-school transportation at no cost to the pupils.

1. Transportation Services Offered to Students

The district provides no cost transportation to students per Board Policy (3250, 3540, 3541.2). Transportation fees shall be waived for students with demonstrated financial need in accordance with Education Code 39807.5. Routes for our students for morning pickups and afternoon drop offs are provided daily. This includes all minimum days and special field trip events as well.

2. Services for Special Populations

Students who are within our district and need transportation to other specific program sites per their IEP are transported through contracted services with Superintendent of Merced County Schools SELPA. This service has trained staff and equipment, e.g. wheel chair lift, to transport safely. In addition to this, we also provide fully licensed drivers and a maintained bus fleet to transport students of to and from El Nido school. BP (3541.2)

- Homeless children and youth – No cost transportation services are provided in accordance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.) and Board Policy (3540)
- Student with Disabilities – The district shall provide no cost home-to-school transportation and additional transportation services as needed for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education programs or Section 504 accommodation plan in accordance with Board Policy 3540, 3541.2. (Education Code 41850; 20USC 1400-1482; 34 CFR 104.4)

3. Services for Unduplicated Pupils

Transportation is offered to all of our students. All students who are English learners, foster-homeless youth, or eligible for a free or reduced-price meal shall have priority for transportation services at no cost per BP 3540.

Consultations:

Enter description of the required plan consultation with classified staff, teachers, school administrators, regional local transit authorities, local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts, parents, pupils and other stakeholders.

Plan Development

This plan was developed in consultation with district classified and certificated staff, and parent leadership such as School Site Council, and District English Learner Advisory Committee. Surveys completed each year from our families, offer our district the information needed to plan and prepare our transportation needs for the upcoming school year. There are no regional local transit authorities operating within the El Nido Elementary School District. Best practices from the California Air Resources Boards were considered in developing our plan.

Presentation and Adoption

The plan was presented in an open meeting of the Board of Education with the opportunity for public comment on March 11, 2025.

Transportation Funding and Finance: The figure below contains projected reimbursement for the 2024-2025 school year based on actual expenses for the 2023-2024 school year.

Total 2023-24 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600)	\$449,069
Less Capital Outlay	(\$223,947)
Estimated 60% Reimbursement	\$135,073
Less 2023-24 Transportation add-on (From LCFF Calculator)	(\$94,356)
Total Projected Funding	\$40,717

Board Approval Date: March 11, 2025