



PETALUMA CITY SCHOOLS

Transportation Department

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PLAN

March 26, 2024



Transportation Department

INTRODUCTION

Per Education Code (EC) Section 39800.1, as a condition of receiving apportionments for Transportation Services (under EC Section 41850.1), a local educational agency shall develop a plan describing the transportation services. The plan shall be presented and adopted by the governing board of the local educational agency on or before April 1, 2023, and updated by April 1 each year thereafter in an open meeting with the opportunity for in-person and remote public comment. 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. Nothing in a local educational agency's plan shall preclude a local educational agency from providing no-cost transit passes to pupils.

Our District

Petaluma City Schools, comprised of Petaluma City (Elementary) School District and Petaluma Joint Union High School District educates nearly 7,100 students. The district includes 3 Charter Schools (Penngrove Elementary Charter; Mary Collins at Cherry Valley Charter; and Petaluma Accelerated Charter School) for a total of seven elementary schools, three Junior high schools, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school, two alternative high schools, one transition program, and one adult education school. Petaluma City Schools is also the Lead agency for the South County Consortium (SOCC) that operates a special education program that serves students ages Preschool to high school with disabling conditions including autism, intellectual disability, and emotional disabilities in classrooms that are integrated on general education campus'. SOCC serves students attending all Districts in the Greater Petaluma area. Petaluma City Schools has been serving students for 150 plus years. Petaluma High School was opened in 1873 making it one of the oldest high schools in California.

Description of Transportation Services

Petaluma City Schools has a total of 24 school buses and 3 transit vans to service the transportation needs of the District. That includes 13 Type 1, 24 passenger van school buses, 11 Type 1, 78 passenger school buses and 3 E Transit, 9 passenger vans. Based on the limited number of in-house bus drivers that the District employs, the District contracts with First Student who provided nine routes for the 2022-23 school year to support transportation for students with disabilities. During the 2022-23 school year, the District school bus and contracted fleet traveled 154,445 miles. On a daily basis, the

Transportation Department transported approximately 210 general education students and 275 students with disabilities to and from their respective schools. That translates to annual passenger boardings of 87,300 students. The District's bus fleet also transported students on an estimated 109 activity trips (curricular, extra-curricular). That is an artificially lower number than a more typical year as the District was still in transition from the nationwide driver shortage.

Petaluma City Schools offers free home-to-school transportation to all secondary students who live in our rural high school boundaries for their school of attendance. The department also provides services for the transportation of activity trips throughout Sonoma County and neighboring counties that support the educational activities of the schools, including curricular and extra-curricular for students of the District. Transportation is also provided for our Transition program which takes special needs students to various venues to assist in developing life skills.

On May 25, 2021 Petaluma City Schools received its first electric school bus through the Volkswagen Mitigation Grant through the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District. Since then, Petaluma City Schools has received four additional electric buses through this same grant. In early 2022 Petaluma City Schools started to receive the first of twelve electric buses through the Carol Moyer BAAQ grant. With the Carol Moyer BAAQ Grant we were also able to secure grant funding for our infrastructure and charging stations. Bringing our total of electric buses to seventeen. As of December 2023, Petaluma City Schools has received all seventeen electric school buses. The infrastructure and charging stations are scheduled to be completed in June 2024.

On May 9, 2023, the Board approved the purchase of two All-Electric Ford Transit vans utilizing the State of California, Air Resources Board Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project. The first van arrived on August 28, 2023. On September 26, 2023, the Board approved the purchase of an additional four All-Electric Ford Transit vans, of which two will be equipped with a wheelchair lift. As of the date of this Transportation Plan, Petaluma City Schools has received three of the six electric vans. The remaining three electric vans will be arriving in the next few weeks.

Description of Transportation Services for Pupils with Disabilities, Homeless Children and Foster Youth

Petaluma City Schools offers transportation services in the least restrictive environment to all homeless students, foster youth and pupils with disabilities that meet the criteria for severely disabled and/or non-ambulatory. This is done with our inhouse bus drivers, District white fleet or our contracted vendors.

Description of How Unduplicated Students Are Able to Access Available Home-to-School Transportation at No Cost to the Students

Petaluma City Schools offers free home-to-school transportation to all students who qualify by living within their school of attendance boundaries, and do not fall within the non-service zone. This is done with our inhouse bus drivers, District white fleet or our contracted vendors.

The District also works with the Petaluma City Transit to ensure they have the most up to date bell schedule for all of our secondary schools which allows them to build routes to accommodate students who ride the City bus to and from school. Petaluma City Transit provides youth quarterly passes that are available for sale only at the Petaluma Transit Office, Online, and at select Junior High and High Schools (Kenilworth Junior High School, Casa Grande High School, Petaluma Junior High School and Petaluma High School). Students that qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program may be eligible for the reduced rate.

*In June 2023, Petaluma City Transit started offering free bus passes for students. Currently, the free passes for students will continue through June 2025.

Description of How the Plan Was Developed in Consultation with Major Interested Parties, Including Classified Staff, Teachers, School Administrators, Regional Local Transit Authorities, Local Air Pollution Control District and Air Quality Management Districts, Parents, Pupils and Other Stakeholders.

A copy of the plan has been posted on the website, District staff is meeting with CSEA on March 20th and the Petaluma Federation of Teachers on March 21st to review and discuss any input on the plan.

The District will also invite input from the Petaluma Transit, The Bay Area Air Quality District (BAAQ), California Energy Commission (CEC), and California Air Resources Board (CARB). All parties may also make public comments at the Petaluma City Schools regularly scheduled Board meetings.

The District will also consider a Transportation Committee in the Spring to continue to explore options on how to expand transportation services for field trips and athletic events, recruit for new bus drivers, and to continue to provide a greater opportunity for input from critical stakeholders.

Board Meeting on March 26, 2024

Transportation Services Allowance Calculation (2022-23 Fiscal year)

Transportation Services Allowance Data

- A. Total 2022-23 Transportation Expenses (Function 3600) \$3,671,943
- B. Less Capital Outlay (Object 6xxx, Function 3600) \$1,375,368
- C. Less Non-Agency Expenditures (Goal 7110, 7150, Function 3600) \$0
- D. Estimated 60% Reimbursement \$1,169,162
- E. Less 2022-2023 Transportation Add-on from Total combined LCFF for Petaluma City Schools \$813,026
 - 1. Petaluma City Elementary School District \$81,402
 - 2. Petaluma Joint Union High School District \$731,626

Total Home To School Transportation Reimbursement \$356,134

Summary of Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

- 2000-2999: Classified Salaries \$578,614
- 3000-3999: Employee Benefits \$285,072
- 4000-4999: Books and Supplies \$25,616
- 5000-5999: Services and Other Operating Expenditures \$1,407,274
- 6000-6999: Capital Outlay \$1,375,368
- 7000-7999: Other Outgo \$0
- Total 2022-23 Expenditures \$3,671,944

