



# PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS



## Special Education Transportation Services

Board Meeting

August 12, 2019

Dr. Ruth Pérez, Superintendent

Dr. Elida Garcia, Director, Special Education

Ruben Frutos, Assistant Superintendent , Business Services



# Presentation Purpose

- Review transportation services for students in Special Education in PUSD.
- Report on how the IEP process informs the recommendation for transportation.
- Review the District's costs and funding sources for Special Education transportation.



# Transportation Services provided by PUSD for students in Special Education

- Taxi Service

- Serves approximately 380 students
- Annual cost: \$1.7 million per year
- The current program allows taxis to have 3-5 other students that ride together.
- Riders include students with disabilities, students with Section 504 plans, and over-enrollment students.



- School Bus

- Bus transportation provided to general education students at ten schools that depend on the vicinity of home residence to school site.
- Bus transportation cost: \$834,000 per year





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# Transportation Taxi Services Implementation Timeline

Year 1 Pilot  
July 2012

Year 2 Pilot  
July 2013

Full  
Implementation  
July 2014



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# Benefits of Taxi Services

Students spend less time being transported: shorter time for pick-up and drop-off. Compared to buses, taxis save approximately 14 minutes.

Taxis provide greater security and comfort:

- Cameras
- Car seats, seat belts, door locks
- Air conditioning

Parents and staff have direct contact with drivers via cell phone.

The consistency in taxi service has reduced discipline problems and there have been no liability claims.

Experience helps students prepare for real life transportation.



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# Eligibility for Transportation Services under Special Education

Transportation is offered when:

- Special Education services are not provided at the home school.
- If student cannot be transported in same manner as non-disabled peers due to disability IEP team must identify specific transportation arrangement.

Transportation services are part of the student's  
Individualized Education Plan.

- IEP team includes parent, administrator, Special Education teacher, General Education teacher, service providers, such as Speech/Language and Occupational Therapy, and student, if applicable.



# Legal Aspects of Transportation

- If school district provides to general education population...it must provide to students with disabilities.
- Transportation is not given automatically.
- Decisions regarding transportation are IEP team decisions. IEP team determines transportation needs on case-by-case basis
- Is transportation required? If necessary for FAPE, YES. Provided at no cost to parents.





# Legal Aspects of Transportation

- If student cannot be transported in same manner as non-disabled peers due to disability, IEP team must identify specific transportation arrangements.
- Section 504 guarantees students with disabilities equal access to non-educational and educational activities; thus, transportation may be required under Section 504 even when unnecessary for FAPE (e.g., class field trip or extracurricular activity).







# Transportation Costs and Funding Sources

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Special Ed. Transportation	1,618,216.00	1,655,705.00	1,650,000.00	1,726,946.41	1,807,319.00
District Wide Transportation	2,339,596.52	2,413,135.46	2,535,625.17	2,539,027.68	2,803,736.49
GF Transportation Costs	721,380.52	757,430.46	885,625.17	812,081.27	996,417.49
	69%	69%	65%	68%	64%



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# Questions and Discussion