

June 8, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom  
Governor's Office  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Toni G. Atkins  
President pro Tempore  
California State Senate  
Sacramento, CA 95814

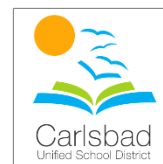
Assembly Member Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
California State Assembly  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Opposition to the Legislative Budget – Transportation Proposal**

We write to express our serious concerns and opposition to the Legislature's transportation budget proposal. The proposal would mandate offering all TK-6 and low-income students home-to-school transportation by 2027-2028, without any guarantee of funding.

The home-to-school transportation program is woefully underfunded and has not received a funding increase for 10 years. Districts are currently required to transport students with disabilities, but receive cents on the dollar as reimbursement for their expenses.

While we understand the intent behind providing transportation to more students, this major expansion will cost billions of dollars. For the small population of students currently receiving home-to-school transportation, districts are paying an estimated \$1.2 billion out of their general funds. The proposed expansion will exponentially increase the population receiving transportation and will result in



many billions of dollars being diverted from the classroom and the core instructional needs of all students.

Further, school districts across the state are facing dire shortages of buses and drivers. Rather than increasing the workforce, this proposal exacerbates the current hiring crisis by creating additional hurdles to becoming a school bus driver. The proposal also eliminates the ability of school districts to offer transportation services for a fee. To compensate for the current underfunded system, many transportation programs are paid for by fees. Current law prohibits low-income students from being charged any fees, but many middle and upper-income families can afford nominal fees to support the service. If adopted, this proposal will close those programs that many parents rely on.

We appreciate the Legislature’s acknowledgment of the importance of home-to-school transportation. However, school districts simply do not have the human capital, vehicle capacity, or funds to fulfill a mandate of this magnitude. For these reasons, we respectfully request you to oppose the Legislature’s transportation budget proposal.

Sincerely,

**Megan Baier**  
Legislative Advocate  
Association of California School Administrators

**Derick Lennox**  
Senior Director, Governmental Relations and  
Legal Affairs  
California County Superintendents Educational  
Services Association

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School Employers Association of California

**Barrett Snider**  
Partner, Capitol Advisors Group  
Small School Districts Association

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Superintendent of Schools  
Kings County Office of Education

**Patricia Gunderson**  
County Superintendent  
Lassen County Office of Education



**Mary Jane Burke**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Marin County Office of Education

**Lisa Cavin**  
Acting County Superintendent of Schools  
Plumas County Office of Education

**Krystal Lomanto**  
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**Cathy Parker**  
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Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools

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**Tom O'Malley**  
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Igo Ono Platina School District  
New Millennium Partnership