



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION IN CALIFORNIA MUST BE FULLY FUNDED

STATEMENT OF INTENT

School bus transportation in California is the safest, most environmentally friendly and economically responsible method of allowing all students access to their education. Nothing less than full funding is required to maintain this critical community and education service.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FACTS

- Fewer than 15% of California Students Ride School Buses; Nationwide average is 55%.
- California pays for less than 40% of the cost of school transportation forcing school districts to use precious classroom dollars or severely reduce or eliminate the service altogether. The funding that school districts receive was capped in the 1982-83 school year and districts disproportionately receive funding based only on costs they reported in that year. School districts that wish to initiate home to school transportation service cannot receive new funding for this.

Safety

- School buses are 172 times safer than the family automobile (National Safety Council).
- Annually over 800 students are killed travelling to and from school in modes of travel other than school buses (National Transportation Research Board).
- California employs the safest mode of crossing students, with the driver physically escorting students across the road.
- School buses must comply with the most Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for bus design and construction safety. New buses in California must have lap-shoulder seat belts for students.
- California school bus drivers are required to receive the greatest amount of training compared to any driver on the road, are drug and alcohol tested and fingerprinted to eliminate potential candidates with any questionable criminal background.

Environmentally Friendly

- One bus replaces approximately 50 cars.
- Significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduced congestion around schools and communities.
- Educating the next generation on the benefits of mass forms of transportation. Creating life-long commute habits.

Economically Responsible

- School bus transportation for an entire school year costs on average \$600 per student. The family automobile for a similar trip costs approximately \$1,500.

Access to Education

- Poor students and those in rural areas often require school bus transportation to access their education. Many school districts are eliminating school bus transportation as a result of inadequate funding.
- Special education students are required to be transported as a related service if necessary to access their education. Regular education students do not always receive the same equal access benefit.

Contact

California Association of School Transportation Officials: www.castoways.org