

# Understanding SB 88 Regulation and Its Impact On Your School Transportation Plans for 2025-2026



# Meet Your Panel



**Kevin Gordon**  
President, Capitol Advisors



**Megan Carey**  
Advisor to CEO, EverDriven



**Richard Jimenez**  
Director of Transportation, Placentia-Yorba Linda  
Unified School District



**David Neben**  
Partner at Capitol Advisors and Legislative  
Representative at California Association of  
School Transportation Officials



**Dr. LaFaye Platter**  
Leadership Consultant and former Deputy  
Superintendent of Human Resources



**Kelly Rem**  
Partner, Lozano Smith Law Firm

# Agenda



**Key provisions surrounding  
SB 88**



**Practical steps for successful  
implementation**



**Actionable insights to navigate  
SB 88 and protect your  
students, staff, and district**

# Rationale



1

CASBO strives to provide service wherever it is needed in the industry

2

Special Education out of district placement has continued to grow

3

Students experiencing homelessness and foster youth under McKinney Vento Act have grown

4

Need for alternative means of transportation has expanded and so has the need for safety measures

5

The participants on this webinar will provide next steps and best practices so LEA personnel can make this change effectively and confidently

# SB88 Legislative Overview



Where did this bill come from?



Whose responsibility is it to ensure compliance?



What does it mean if a district is not compliant?



Will there be further changes to the bill?



Who should I contact to be heard if I would like to see additional changes?

# Legislative Concerns you would like addressed?



- **CASBO - Sara Pietrowski, Chief Governmental Relations Officer**  
[spietrowski@casbo.org](mailto:spietrowski@casbo.org)
- **CASTO - David Neben, Legislative Representative**  
[david@capitoladvisors.com](mailto:david@capitoladvisors.com)

# Comparison Chart – What are the Differences



Requirement	School Bus Drivers	SB 88 Drivers
Minimum Age	18 years	18 years
Driver's License	Class B CDL with Passenger (P) and School Bus (S) endorsements	Valid CA driver's license appropriate for vehicle class
Special Certification	California Special Driver Certificate (School Bus) issued by CHP	Not required
Training Hours	Minimum 40 hours: 20 classroom, 20 behind-the-wheel	Initial training and subsequent required training sufficient to gain proficiency
First Aid Certification	Required; must pass CHP first aid exam or complete EMSA-approved course	Required; valid certificate equivalent to American Red Cross
Medical Examination	Required; must pass DOT physical exam	Required; must pass DOT physical exam (does not have to report to DMV)
Background Check	Department of Justice fingerprint clearance through CHP	Department of Justice fingerprint clearance

# Comparison Chart – What are the Differences



Requirement	School Bus Drivers	SB 88 Drivers
Driving Record	Clean Record; no major violations. Enroll in CA DMV Employee Pull Notice Program	Satisfactory record, no major violations in past 3 years. Enroll in CA DMV Employee Pull Notice Program
Drug & Alcohol Testing	Mandatory DOT pre-employment, reasonable suspicion, post accident, and random testing	Mandatory testing consistent with DOT requirements (pre-service, reasonable suspicion, post-accident, and random)
Tuberculosis Screening	Required; must pass TB risk assessment (LEA Requirement)	Required; must pass TB risk assessment
Mandated Reporter Status	Required; must comply with Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (LEA Requirement)	Required; must comply with Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act
Vehicle Inspection	Daily pre-trip; vehicles subject to CHP inspections	Daily pre-trip; inspected every 12 months or 50,000 miles at BAR-licensed shop
Vehicle Equipment	Must be equipped with safety features per regulations	Must include first aid kit and fire extinguisher
Maximum Duty Hours	Max 10 hours driving or on-duty, within 16-hour window after 8-hour break	Max 10 hours driving or on-duty, within 16-hour window or 8-hour break
Applicable Vehicles	Vehicle must meet the definition of a 'school bus' per California Vehicle Code (CVC) §545 and comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS).	Vehicles carrying 10 or fewer, including driver. For vehicles with a maximum capacity of 8 or fewer passengers, excluding the driver, only street-legal coupes, sedans, or light-duty vehicles, including vans, minivans, sport utility vehicles, and pickup trucks, shall be used for pupil transportation.

# Requirements to Comply with SB 88



**SB 88 is required starting July 1, 2025, for any new RFP's and all LEA compensated personnel**



**When current RFP's or agreements end and need to be renewed**

# Exemptions to SB 88



**SB 88 only applies to people who receive compensation from the LEA**



**SB 88 does NOT supersede district risk management policies, practices, and procedures**



## Exemptions

- ▶ Person in LEA driving under 40 hours per school calendar year
  - If LEA makes reasonable effort to find a driver and can't, they must notify parents
- ▶ Person driving for a medical or psychiatric emergency situation
- ▶ Person driving due to flood, fire, or natural disasters
- ▶ Guardians/caregivers (court-appointed)
- ▶ Pupils driving themselves

# Requirements for Vehicles



**School transportation vehicles are defined as vehicles transporting no more than nine (9) passengers plus the driver**



**Seat belts are required**



**First aid kits are required**



**First extinguishers are required (minimum 4B:C rating)**



**Vehicles must undergo a 19-point inspection every 12 months or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, at a facility licensed by the Bureau of Automotive Repair**

# Transportation Director Roles and Responsibilities



## Know the law



Ensure that appropriate district staff know the law



## Know who in the LEA is being transported by outside vendors

- ▶ Special Education Director
- ▶ Purchasing Director
- ▶ McKinney-Vento Liaisons

# Transportation Director Roles and Responsibilities



## Risk Mitigation

- ▶ Suggest sign-off declaration for appropriate staff
- ▶ Suggest time at leadership retreats/opening session for presentation



## Accountability

- ▶ Vendor attestation form
- ▶ Visit sites/terminal to visually confirm compliance
- ▶ Handle nonconformity swiftly and report to appropriate supervisor
- ▶ Document the breach and the LEA's response as well as vendor's response

# Requirements for Purchasing Officials



## Roles and Requirements

- ▶ Know the law
- ▶ Connect with the Transportation Director to plan for education of staff, response to nonconformity, and ways to properly document disciplinary measures
- ▶ Ensure the staff knows who is responsible for compliance of the new requirements so accountability can be upheld

# Requirements of Human Resources



## Roles and Requirements

- ▶ Help educate and hold staff accountable
- ▶ Know the law
- ▶ Connect with the Transportation Director to plan for education of staff, response to nonconformity, and ways to properly document disciplinary measures
- ▶ Ensure the staff knows who is responsible for compliance of the new requirements so accountability can be upheld

# The Process of Change



## Knoster Model for Managing Complex Change

Vision	Skills	Incentives	Resources	Action Plan	Success
Vision	Skills	Incentives	Resources	Missing	False Starts
Vision	Skills	Incentives	Missing	Action Plan	Frustration
Vision	Skills	Missing	Resources	Action Plan	Resistance
Vision	Missing	Incentives	Resources	Action Plan	Anxiety
Missing	Skills	Incentives	Resources	Action Plan	Confusion

# Resources



## LEA Checklist



## Driver Qualifications



## Vendor Attestation Checklist

# Contact Information

- Dr. Lafaye Platter- [lafaye@lplatter.com](mailto:lafaye@lplatter.com)
- Kevin Gordon - [kevin@capitoladvisors.org](mailto:kevin@capitoladvisors.org)
- David Neben- [david@capitoladvisors.com](mailto:david@capitoladvisors.com)
- Richard Jimenez - [rjimenez@pylusd.org](mailto:rjimenez@pylusd.org)
- Kelly M. Rem- [krem@lozanosmith.com](mailto:krem@lozanosmith.com)
- Megan Carey- [mcarey@everdriven.com](mailto:mcarey@everdriven.com)

# Appendix