

SB 88 Compliance Checklist for Alternative Transportation Vendors

A Collaborative Work By



To ensure compliance with California Senate Bill 88 (SB 88), effective July 1, 2025, school districts contracting with alternative transportation vendors for student transportation should adhere to the following comprehensive checklist:

I. Driver Qualifications



Minimum Age and Licensing:

Drivers must be at least 18 years old and possess a valid California driver's license appropriate for the vehicle class.

- If the vehicle seats more than 10 passengers including the driver, the driver must have a valid Commercial Driver's License.



Criminal Background Check:

Completion of a fingerprint-based criminal background check, including clearance through the California Department of Justice and FBI.



Driving Record:

Drivers must have a satisfactory driving record, with no violations resulting in a point count of two or more, and no suspensions or revocations within the past three years.



CA DMV EPN:

Drivers must be enrolled in the California employer pull-notice system.



Medical Examination:

A medical examination must be completed within the past two years to ensure fitness for duty.

- If the driver is 65 years of age or older, they must have had a medical examination completed in the month they turned 65, and every 12 months thereafter.



Tuberculosis Risk Assessment:

Submission and clearance of a tuberculosis risk assessment.

**Drug and Alcohol Testing:**

Enrollment in a drug and alcohol testing program, including pre-service testing.

**Education and Training Requirements:**

Completion of required training, including first aid, emergency procedures, and student sensitivity.

- First aid training must be provided by, or equivalent to, the American Red Cross first aid program, and must be kept up to date.
- Drivers are also required to complete ongoing education on an annual basis.

2. Vehicle Requirements

**Inspection:**

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.

- Drivers must inspect the vehicles daily before service and keep a record of that inspection

**Safety Equipment:**

Each vehicle must be equipped with a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher.

**Vehicle Type:**

Vehicles used for pupil transportation must meet specific requirements based on passenger capacity

- Vehicles that seat 10 passengers or fewer (including the driver) must be street-legal and fall into the category of coupes, sedans, or light-duty vehicles—such as vans, minivans, SUVs, or pickup trucks.
- Vehicles that seat more than more than 10 passengers (including the driver) must comply with the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirement outlined under Driver Qualifications.
- SB 88 shall not reduce other legal requirements placed on any driver who provides transportation services for pupils in a vehicle with a capacity of more than 10 persons, including a driver of a school bus or school pupil activity bus.

3. Contractual Obligations

**Written Attestation:**

Vendors must provide a written attestation confirming:

- No applicable law violations at the time of contract initiation.
- Commitment to maintaining compliance with applicable laws throughout the contract duration.
- Employment or contracting of drivers who meet all SB 88 requirements.
- Maintenance of all required reports and documents, available for inspection by the Local Education Agency (LEA) or state regulatory agencies.

**Third-Party Reporting:**

Acknowledge that third parties may report non-compliance to the LEA, and such reports must be substantiated with documentation.

4. Record keeping and Oversight

**Documentation:**

Maintain comprehensive records of driver qualifications, training, background checks, medical examinations, and vehicle inspections.

**Availability for Inspection:**

Ensure that all records are readily available for inspection by the LEA or relevant state agencies upon request.

**Compliance Monitoring:**

Implement internal audits and reviews to ensure ongoing compliance with SB 88 requirements.

5. Exemptions and Special Circumstances

**Contract Timing:**

For contracts entered into before January 1, 2024, SB 88 requirements apply upon contract renewal or expiration.

**Specific Exemptions:**

Recognize exemptions for certain drivers, including:

- School employees or contractors providing transportation for field trips or extracurricular activities, not exceeding 40 hours per school year.
- Drivers transporting pupils due to emergencies or immediate threats to safety.
- Transportation provided through Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs while a pupil's transportation plan is being finalized.

Resources

[SB 88 Bill](#)

[Keenan Briefings - SB88 Pupil Transportation Driver Qualifications](#)

[CDE - Pupil Transportation Driver Qualifications](#)

[SB 88 Compliance FAQs: What School Districts Need to Know](#)

By following this checklist, school districts can ensure that their alternative transportation vendors are in full compliance with SB 88, thereby promoting the safety and well-being of all students transported under their jurisdiction.

If there are other requirements put in place by your district, please make sure you add those to this form.