

HEATHER HADWICK

MEMBER FOR THE 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



FACT SHEET

AB 2362 – Rural Pupil Transportation Allowances

IN BRIEF

AB 2362 provides targeted flexibility for small and frontier school districts by increasing the annual drive-time limit for school employees transporting students from 40 to 200 hours, while maintaining all existing safety requirements. The bill also establishes a Rural Transportation Safety Grant Program to support compliance and safety.

BACKGROUND & ISSUE

Access to reliable pupil transportation is essential to educational equity, especially in rural areas. While the state has strengthened safety requirements through SB 88 (2023), current law reflects a one-size-fits-all model built around traditional bus systems that do not work for many small and frontier districts.

These districts face unique challenges, including persistent driver shortages, long travel distances, and limited resources. Current law limits school employees to just 40 hours of drive time per year when transporting students for activities, which often restricts participation in athletics, field trips, and other enrichment opportunities.

As a result, rural students are disproportionately impacted and may miss out on important educational experiences available to their urban peers.

SOLUTION

AB 2362 provides a practical, targeted solution by increasing the annual drive-time limit from 40 to 200 hours for school employees in districts with fewer than 2,500 ADA and in frontier school districts.

The bill maintains all existing safety requirements, including the requirement that districts first attempt to secure qualified drivers

and notify parents when an employee driver does not meet standard requirements.

Additionally, AB 2362 establishes the Rural Transportation Safety Grant Program to help small and rural districts cover costs associated with training, inspections, and compliance.

AB 2362 aligns state policy with the realities of rural communities, ensuring students have equitable access to school activities while maintaining strong safety standards.

AB 2362 ensures students in frontier communities have the same access to opportunities as their urban peers.

SUPPORT

Association of California School Administrators
Small School Districts Association

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