

HEATHER HADWICK

MEMBER FOR THE 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



FACT SHEET

AB 2362 – Rural Pupil Transportation Allowances

IN BRIEF

AB 2362 gives rural and small school districts flexibility to transport students to school activities by removing one-size-fits-all limits on teachers transporting students, allowing trained staff or volunteers to help transport students, and maintaining clear safety rules, without changing requirements for school bus drivers or daily routes.

BACKGROUND & ISSUE

Access to reliable pupil transportation is essential to educational equity, especially in rural areas. While the state has expanded funding and established safety requirements through SB 88 (2023), current laws reflect 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 driver shortages, long travel distances, and limited resources, making traditional transportation models inefficient or unworkable. At the same time, restrictions on school employees transporting students, such as drive-time limits, further limit access to extracurricular and enrichment opportunities.

As a result, students in rural communities are often unable to fully participate in school programs that are critical to a well-rounded education.

SOLUTION

AB 2362 addresses inequities facing frontier school districts under SB 88 by removing rigid drive-time limits on school employees transporting students to activities and creating flexible, safe transportation options that reflect rural realities.

Under current law, teachers and coaches are limited in how often they can transport students, even for essential activities like athletics, field trips, and extracurricular programs. AB 2362 removes the 40-hour annual cap for these school-sponsored activities, ensuring students are not denied opportunities due to restrictive limits.

For small and frontier school districts, where transportation challenges are most acute, the bill increases allowable drive time for other student transportation from 40 hours to 200 hours annually, or more if approved by the local governing board.

The bill also establishes a “rural activity driver” option, allowing qualified school employees or registered volunteers to transport students in smaller vehicles when traditional bus service is unavailable.

AB 2362 maintains strong safety guardrails and does not change requirements for bus drivers or daily home-to-school transportation. Rural activity drivers must also meet clear safety standards, including a satisfactory driving record, required training, and annual vehicle inspections.

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

SUPPORT

Pending.

CONTACT

Taylor Martin
Taylor.Martin@asm.ca.gov
(916) 319-2001