

SULPHUR SPRINGS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

BUS FEE INFORMATION

Why a bus fee?

A bus fee is collected in order to maintain a level of service commensurate with the basic needs of the community. Increased transportation costs have not been reimbursed by state funds; therefore, this fee is necessary to avoid reducing or eliminating bus services.

Who is eligible?

Students living within the bus route area for the District assigned home school are eligible for home-to-school transportation. Pupils on established bus routes who otherwise are ineligible for home-to-school transportation may participate on a space available program.

What are the fees?

The fees are \$310 for one student per year, when the entire fee is paid at the beginning of the school year. For parents who prefer to pay in two installments, the fee is \$205.00 due at the beginning of each half-year (see back for dates). For parents with more than one student riding the bus, please read fee information below:

Families with more than one child attending a Sulphur Springs Union School District will qualify for the following rates:

| Annual Fee | Semi-Annual Fee (for each HALF -YEAR) |
|-------------------------|---|
| One Pupil: \$310.00 | One Pupil: \$205.00 |
| Two Pupils: \$441.00 | Two Pupils: \$273.00 |
| Three or more: \$520.00 | Three or more: \$320.00 |

Single ride (one-way) tickets are available for \$2.00 and must be purchased in advance from the school office.

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch may qualify for free or reduced bus service. Qualification criteria and exempt/reduced applications are available at the district website. **You must supply proof of income before your application for an exemption is considered.** Until then you may purchase single ride tickets.

Special Education students who are severely handicapped or orthopedic handicapped students who require door-to-door transportation specified in their I.E.P are exempt from the fee. Special Education students who are administratively transferred from their school of residence are also exempt.

A \$25.00 charge will be collected for checks that are refused payment by a bank. Postdated checks are not accepted.

How is the fee paid?

Fill out the School Bus Application and make checks payable to Sulphur Springs Union School District. Please print your child's first name, last name and school on your check. Completed applications and payment should be in a sealed envelope and mailed to:

Sulphur Springs Union School District
Transportation Department
27000 Weyerhaeuser Way
Canyon Country, CA 91351

You may send them through the U.S. mail or deliver to the address above.

Will students have to carry a pass?

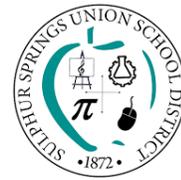
Yes, bus passes will be issued to each student and must be presented to the driver each time they board the bus.

Are there reduced fees for riding only in the mornings or afternoons?

No, the fee is not a daily ride fee. In order to guarantee current levels of bus service, the fee is an annual fee or semi-annual fee.

The school months have different numbers of days. Why isn't the fee based on individual months?

The fee of \$310.00 is for a school year, with payment options. It is true, however, that schools release students for varying numbers of days for staff in-service, holidays, etc. It is not feasible for the transportation fee to be adjusted for each different school configuration. Remember, this fee is for the purpose of continuing current levels of service and is not a monthly or daily ride fee.



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What about occasional rides?

Students who do not regularly ride the bus, who are going home with a friend, attending a group meeting, or are occasionally or temporarily unable to use their normal means of transportation **must have an application on file in the transportation office** and may purchase single ride tickets at the school office for \$2.00 each. A single ride ticket is good for a one-way ride only. If the student will be using the bus both to and from school, two tickets will be required.

Will students be denied bus service if the fee isn't paid?

Yes. It is expected that the fee will be paid in a timely manner. If the fee is not paid by the due dates, the student may no longer ride a bus. In fairness to those who pay the fee in a timely manner the district must enforce the rule that the fee be paid in order to use the service. If a student has been denied bus service for lack of payment, all that is necessary to re-instate service is for the fee to be paid.

What about partial months for new students?

Students new to the district, or those who have moved within the district or for some other reason need to start riding the bus, must pay the fee. In order to do this as simply as possible this rule shall apply:

If the student requires bus service within the first 24 calendar days of any month, the entire fee for that month is due. After the 24th day of any month, the fee shall start with the next month. The annual or semester fee will be prorated based on this rule counting full months only. The fees for monthly increments are shown below:

| | Per Month | Per month (reduced) |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| First Pupil: | \$41.00 | \$21.00 |
| Two Pupils: | \$55.00 | \$28.00 |
| Three or more Pupils: | \$64.00 | \$32.00 |

If a student moves or is ill, will the fee be refunded for unused days?

The fee is not a daily ride fee; therefore, a refund based on unused days for illness, suspension from school or loss of bus riding privileges because of violation of bus rules will not be given. However, if a student moves out of the district a refund will be processed. The refund amount will not include the month in which the refund is requested, so please request refunds promptly when moving. Refunds for a previous school year will not be made after the beginning of the next school year.

Requests for refund must be in writing stating the students name, school and last date of attendance. Send refund requests to:

Sulphur Springs Union School District
Transportation Department
27000 Weyerhaeuser Way
Canyon Country, CA 91351

When is the fee due?

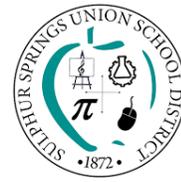
Fees must be received by the Transportation Office by Friday, August 26, 2021, for the 2021/2022 School Year. For parents using the semi-annual payment option, the second half -year fee is due on January 14, 2022. Pupils who are administratively transferred by the School District for the 2021/2022 school year are not responsible for parent share fees.

As of June 1, 2021, measures are in place to ensure physical distancing of students on school busses. Subject to change based on the Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (LACDPH) guidelines. These measures include:

- A maximum of one child per bus seat.
- Face coverings required at all times.
- Open windows (if air quality and rider safety concerns allow).

Need additional information?

Contact the Sulphur Springs Union School District Transportation Office weekdays between 6:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 661-252-3822.



SULPHUR SPRINGS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

School Bus Safety Guide for Parents/Guardians and Students

Responsibility for the safe transportation of school children is a joint effort and must be shared by parents, students and school personnel, as well as school bus drivers and supervisors.

Bus Stop Loading and Unloading

The driver is responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or while being escorted across a street, highway, or road. (CCR, Title 5 Sec. 14203)

Students are required to be at the bus stop five minutes before departure time. The students are to line up in the opposite direction in which the bus travels, 12 feet from where the bus stops, wait until the bus has stopped completely and the door has been opened. Board the bus single file, without pushing.

Students may get off the bus only at assigned bus stop closest to the home address. If a student needs to get off the bus at a different bus stop, written permission must be obtained from the parent/guardian and school administrator. Once signed the student is to turn in the note to the driver.

All students will follow the driver's instructions for the unloading sequence. Students who need to cross the street at the end of the day must follow the directions of the driver and cross in front of the bus, between the bus and the driver.

Student Responsibility

Safe riding consists of sitting in your seat facing forward, speaking quietly to your closest neighbor, keeping your backpack on your lap, hands and feet to yourself, and out of the aisle. Always be respectful, courteous and follow the directions of the driver. If deemed necessary, the driver will assign seats. Riding the School Bus is a privilege that may be suspended when misconduct and minor infractions occur repeatedly.

The following is not allowed on the bus:

- Eating or drinking
- Use of Cell phone or electronics (must be kept in backpack)
- Standing or switching seats while the bus is in motion

Parents/Guardians Responsibility

Make sure your child is at the bus stop on time and support good bus riding conduct. We ask that student's backpack is sized to be carried on their backs and on their laps when they are seated on the bus. If you drive your child to the bus stop or pick them up after school, please park on the same side of the street as the bus stop.

TK, Kindergarten and Primary Student Release

TK and Kindergarten students must be met by an adult who is listed on the transportation release form. TK and Kindergarten students who are not met by an adult will be taken back to school. TK and Kindergarten students must have a release form on file.

Primary grade students (those in grades 1-3) will be released to an adult on the first day on the bus. The adult must provide ID and sign them out on the Release Form. After the first day of riding the bus, students (those in grades 1-3) will be released independently unless direction is provided otherwise.

Emergency Procedures

Every year in the month of October, all students will participate in a Bus Evacuation Drill. During the drill students will be instructed on how to access the fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and emergency exits. They will also receive instruction on the "Danger Zone" (12 feet around the bus) the most dangerous area is near the wheels and bus rules.

Incident Reports and Unacceptable Bus Behavior Reports

The safe transportation of students requires responsible behavior by all persons who ride school buses. Students who do not follow the rules or the driver's instructions may be counseled or denied transportation. The bus driver writes these documents when the school and parent need to become involved in an issue on the bus. The principal will contact the parent to discuss the student's behavior and the possible consequence that may involve suspension from the bus.

