



June 20, 2023

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi  
 Chair, Assembly Education Committee  
 1021 O Street, Suite 5610  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: Oppose

Senate Bill 88 (Skinner) Pupil Transportation: Driver Requirements

Dear Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi:

On behalf of the local education agencies and statewide education associations on this letter, we are writing to express our respectful opposition to Senate Bill 88 (Skinner). This bill would enact a number of new requirements that have traditionally been in place for bus drivers, to drivers of small vehicles, like vans and sedans for school district

employees that drive students home to school or to extracurricular activities, in addition to companies that schools contract with to provide critical transportation services to our most vulnerable students.

California is currently in the midst of a significant shortage of school staff that is particularly acute among bus drivers. Nearly every school district in the state is struggling to find enough drivers to transport students to school. This bill requires anyone transporting students, regardless of the type of vehicle being used, to meet commercial bus driver training requirements.

School districts often contract with transportation companies driving passenger vehicles to transport students with disabilities, homeless youth, and foster youth to school. While we welcome a conversation on safety, these companies are already regulated by the Public Utilities Commission. The vehicles impacted by this bill are driving are not commercial buses, but rather small passenger vehicles, such as sedans that only require a regular class C drivers license. It is inappropriate to apply a school bus safety standard to a passenger vehicle. SB 88 will push many companies out of business, and without enough school employees, many school districts will have no options to transport these vulnerable students to school.

In addition, many schools utilize district-owned passenger vans to transport students from home to school because vans are a more economical mode of transportation given the pick up routes in many districts. This bill would require school staff driving students from home to school in vans to meet commercial bus driver requirements. Further, this bill would impose commercial driver requirements on coaches, teachers, and other staff members transporting students to sporting and academic events in regular passenger vans, including 12 hours of training and a medical exam. It is already challenging to identify coaches, teachers, and staff willing to fill these roles. Placing commercial bus driver standards on staff who are driving passenger vans, will not increase safety, but it will make it more difficult to fill these positions and have an incredibly chilling impact on student activities that are critical to student engagement and success in school.

For the reasons outlined above, we oppose SB 88. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Association of California School Administrators  
California Association of School Business Officials  
California Association of Suburban School Districts  
California High School Coalition  
California School Boards Association  
Central Valley Education Coalition  
Small School Districts' Association  
Alameda County Office of Education  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools  
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools  
Merced County Office of Education  
Orange County Department of Education  
Riverside County Office of Education  
Ventura County Office of Education  
Big Valley Joint Unified School District

Campbell Union School District  
California Advancing Pathways for  
Students Calistoga Joint Unified School  
District  
Castro Valley Unified School District  
Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa Regional Occupational  
Program Dinuba Unified School District  
Eden Area Regional Occupational Program  
Enterprise Elementary School District  
Lakeside Union School District  
Manhattan Beach Unified School District  
Metropolitan Education District  
Milpitas Unified School District  
North Orange County Regional Occupational  
Program Orcutt Union School District  
Pierce Joint Unified School District  
Pioneer Union Elementary School District  
Pomona Unified School District  
Princeton Joint Unified School District  
Redondo Beach Unified School District  
Ross Valley School District  
San Lorenzo Unified School District  
Sulphur Springs Union School District  
Taft City School District  
Torrance Unified School District  
Tulare Joint Union High School District  
Wheatland School District

