



MEMBER ALERT

SB 88 Legal Update (Effective July 1, 2025)

**Aligns safety standards for all student
transportation providers**

Senate Bill 88 (SB 88), signed into law in October 2023, establishes new safety requirements for compensated individuals and entities providing school-related student transportation.

These standards apply to both LEA-employed drivers and third-party transportation providers. Although the law does not take effect until July 1, 2025, members are encouraged to begin preparing now to ensure full compliance.

The following is a high-level summary of SB 88's key provisions:

Who Must Comply

SB 88 applies to all Local Education Agencies (LEAs):

- School districts
- County offices of education
- Charter schools
- Entities in joint powers transportation agreements
- Regional occupational centers or programs

Driver Safety Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid California driver's license for the appropriate vehicle classification
- Pass a criminal background check, including fingerprint clearance, and be subject to drug and alcohol testing
- Have a clean driving record (per Vehicle Code §13370)
- Complete a medical examination and provide a clear tuberculosis risk assessment
- Undergo required training, including first aid training
- Maintain a daily log sheet and complete pre-trip inspections to ensure vehicle maintenance comparable to school bus requirements



Exemptions

- LEA employees transporting students for field trips, athletic programs, or extracurricular activities (max 40 hours/year/employee)
 - Family members transporting students for field trips or other school-related purposes
 - Employees of certain agencies, such as:
 - Public transit systems, county human services, tribal authorities, foster family agencies, etc.
 - Field trips longer than 200 miles
 - Emergency situations (e.g., natural disasters)
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Requirements for Contracts with Private Transportation Vendors

- Must obtain a written attestation confirming compliance with applicable laws and have no legal violations at the time of contracting
 - Provider will ensure only drivers meeting the safety requirements will be transporting students
 - Provider will maintain all required reports and documents on file.
 - Third parties can report vendors to the LEA for non-compliance
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Vehicle Requirements

- Be equipped with a first aid kit and fire extinguisher
- Undergo inspection every 12 months or 50,000 miles by a Bureau of Automotive Repair-licensed facility. *Exemption: Vehicles already under statutory inspection programs*

[View SB 88 in its entirety here.](#)