



School Transportation Operations Report
Santa Rosa City Schools
Board of Education

December 14, 2016



WEST COUNTY TRANSPORTATION
AGENCY (WCTA)

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General Overview

- WTCAs are Joint Powers Agreements formed of and governed by 17 local school districts
- SRC's first year of membership
- Members share:
 - Revenue
 - Costs
 - Benefits
 - Challenges
- Fully staffed for routes

General Overview - Continued

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- Operational size nearly doubled with the membership of SRCs
- 12 new support staff and mechanic positions
- Approximately 35 of previous provider drivers migrated
- Anticipated 25 fewer routes for SRCs
 - Reduced 45 routes

Transitional Challenges and Mitigations

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- WCTA assessed driver staffing and determined not enough drivers
 - Mitigations:
 - Increased special education ride times from 75 to 90 minutes
 - Reduced the projected number of routes by 24
 - Limited field trips that conflict with normal bus routes
 - Contracted with American Logistics Corporation (ALC), to provide special education transportation service

Transitional Challenges and Mitigations - Continued

- Nearly 100 students were mis-identified as requiring special education transportation
 - Mitigation:
 - Completely revised special education bus routes
 - Office staff are routinely driving routes
 - Staff worked nights and weekends to re-schedule routes
 - SRCS is revising internal procedures to properly identify students requiring transportation

Transitional Challenges and Mitigations - Continued

- ▶ ALC could not begin service right away
 - ▶ Mitigations:
 - ▶ Hired trainees as mini-van drivers and rented vans
 - ▶ ALC began transporting some special education students at end of August
 - ▶ More ALC service and mini-van service added

Transitional Challenges and Mitigations - Continued

- Office staff driving routes, communication poor as a result
 - notifying schools and families of late special education bus routes
 - Mitigations:
 - WCTA initially utilized non-driving office staff to assist
 - WCTA Board authorized additional position to assist Dispatch
- Communications continue to be problematic

Transitional Challenges and Mitigations - Continued

- Fewer bus drivers transitioned from First Student than anticipated
 - Mitigations:
 - Aggressively recruited First Student drivers and staff
 - Continuously running school bus driver training program
 - Continual advertisement in local print and electronic employee recruitment
 - Requests to all school district members to advertise the need for bus drivers
 - Driver shortages continue to create challenges

Route Services

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Type of Route	Total Number of Routes	Total Number of Students	SRCS Routes	SRCS Students
Regular Education	43	4,000	18	1,500
Vans – Special Education	7	35	NA	NA
Contracted – ALC – Special Education	4	21	NA	NA
Special Education – 17 Wheelchair & 59 Ambulatory	76	1,100	NA	592

Field Trip Services

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- Vary according to day
- Agency action in August to limit trip availability due to driver shortage
 - Trips between 9am and 2pm are available
 - Trips that conflict with traditional bus route times are limited
 - SRCs has distributed a list of alternative certified transportation providers to sites

Drivers and Staffing

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Total Number of Drivers	Van Drivers	School Busses	Long Term Leave	Certified Office Staff	Certified Substitutes
134	7	107	6	10	4

Drivers and Staffing - Continued

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- Staffing is one driver for each route plus 20 substitute drivers
- Challenges covering routes depending on number of absences
 - Strategies include:
 - running some special education routes late
 - modify pick up and drop off times for some trips
 - chartering out some field trips
 - Additional Dispatch support hired

Driver Recruitment and Training

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- Regular advertisement
 - School newsletter recruitment
- Several recent training classes
- Class scheduled for Week of Dec. 5 & 12
- Limited qualified school bus driver applicants
- Driver training and certification process takes up to 3 months
- 10 Drivers currently in various phases of training

2016-17 SRCS Costs

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Type of Expense	Cost	Ongoing or One Time
Route Costs	\$6,482,627	Ongoing
Membership Fee	\$25,000	\$5,000 per year for 5 years
Facility Transfer Fee – Varies by year	\$59,840	Ongoing

- New services and field trip costs invoiced separately
- Costs for 2017-18 available at WCTA March 8, 2017 Board meeting

Questions