

Business and Noninstructional Operations
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES

Foggy Day Procedures

In conjunction with Section 34501.6 of the California Motor Vehicle Code regarding the transportation of students in school buses on days when visibility on roadways is reduced to 200 feet or less by fog or other atmospheric conditions the Sanger Unified School District (SUSD) Transportation Department will put into operation the following Foggy Day School Bus Operational Procedures:

1. The Transportation Department has identified certain employees who will act as “spotters” on foggy days. The spotters will evaluate the fog situation in the following areas on the way to work each morning. The areas are:
 - a. Southwest area
 - b. Southeast area
 - c. Northwest area
 - d. Fairmont area
 - e. John Wash area
 - f. Piedra/Tivy Valley area
 - g. Lone Star area
 - h. Sanger, in town area
 - i. Sanger Bus Yard
2. Spotters will report to the Dispatcher in the SUSD Transportation office by 5:15 am regarding visibility.
3. This information will be relayed to the Director of Support Services. If the majority of spotters indicate visibility due to fog is reduced to 200 feet or below, by 5:30 am, the Director will call a PLAN A Foggy Day Schedule alert.
4. District staff will be notified via email or text. Parents and students will be notified via television stations KVPT Channel 18, KSEE Channel 24, KMPH Channel 26, KFSN Channel 30 and KGPE Channel 47 that SUSD is on a PLAN A, two-hour delay, Foggy Day school bus schedule. Our Fog Line at 524-6658 will be updated as weather conditions change.
5. After an additional 90 minutes, at 7:00 am, spotters will be sent out to check on conditions throughout the District. Additional contact with school sites will take place to evaluate conditions.
6. If conditions have not cleared so that visibility exceeds 200 feet, Dispatch will notify SUSD District staff via email or text of an additional delay. Parents and students will be notified through media listed above, that a Foggy Day PLAN B, a third hour of delay, is now in effect.

7. After an additional 60 minutes, at 8:00 am, spotters will be sent out to check on conditions throughout the District. Additional contact with school sites will take place to evaluate conditions.
8. If conditions have not cleared so that visibility exceeds 200 feet, Dispatch will notify SUSD District staff via email or text of the cancellation of all morning bus routes. Parents and students will be notified via TV stations that a Foggy Day PLAN C, the cancellation of all morning bus routes, is now in effect.

FOGGY DAY PLANS:

If PLAN A is announced, there will be a two (2) hour bus delay;

If PLAN B is announced, there will be a three (3) hour bus delay (*3 hours total*)

If PLAN C is announced, all home to school transportation is cancelled for the day.

Under Plans A, B or C buses will follow the regular schedule in the afternoon to take students home unless weather conditions reduce visibility to 200 feet or less throughout the majority of school boundaries.

NOTE: The above policy is for “School Bus Riders” and district schools will operate on the same daily schedule even though Foggy Day School Bus Schedules are in effect. Activity trips, Monday through Friday will be reviewed and if needed, will be delayed until conditions improve. Unless an additional announcement is made, afternoon bus runs and athletic trips will operate on a regular schedule. Saturday activity trips will be at the discretion of the school bus driver to delay or to return to the school site for visibility reduced to 200 feet and less.

Students who walk or have their own transportation to school may arrive at their normal time; however, parents and students are advised to exercise discretion relative to particular conditions in and around their respective school attendance areas. Parents may opt to send their students after the fog has lifted. Students will not be penalized if tardy due to fog.

Please realize that Foggy Days are called on a District wide basis and, due to the size of the district (180 square miles), not all areas in the district have the same fog density. Therefore, while it may or may not be foggy in your particular area, the decision to delay school is made in the best interest of the students District wide.

In addition to Schoolway push notifications, Foggy Day Schedule updates are available through media options identified in item 4 above. We encourage all families to continue receiving updates by calling the Sanger Unified School District **Fog Line** at **(559) 524-6658**. The information on the Fog Line will reflect all updated changes regarding the transportation department schedule.

In the event that a Foggy Day Schedule is called on a **Late Start** day, please anticipate a slight delay in pick up times for home to school transportation. For both Sanger High School and Washington Academic Middle School, the Late Start Bus Schedule will not be used. Instead, buses will run using the regular schedule stop times with a two-hour delay for Plan A, and a three-hour delay for Plan B.

Drivers Discretionary Authority

In the event that a driver encounters reduced visibility while driving, which in their opinion causes it to be unsafe for continued driving, the driver has the right to exercise their discretion to pull the bus over in a safe location. They will wait there until conditions improve. Drivers shall notify the SUSD Transportation Dispatcher as soon as possible. This will allow for proper notification to the affected school sites and parents of the delay.

Patchy Fog

If a driver has already started their route and encounters patchy fog, they are to notify SUSD Transportation Dispatcher of any delays. If necessary and when safe, a driver should move their bus away from any bus stops. Once a student has boarded the bus, they are not allowed to leave the bus and return home.

Reduced Visibility During Activity Trips including Athletic Events

During Activity Trips, the bus driver will monitor the weather conditions and be in communication with a Transportation Office staff to communicate when conditions cause or are threatening to cause visibility to be at 200 feet or less. The driver will make the determination if the weather conditions require the bus to depart the event earlier than the trip was scheduled to, in order to maintain the safety and security of all passengers during transport from the event. The trip contact person and director of transportation will be involved in the decision and the trip contact person will communicate the update to the parents of students affected by the decision.

LEAP Transportation

The transportation department will monitor the weather conditions on Foggy Days with continued reduced visibility and communicate updates with the LEAP Director. If visibility is determined to be too dangerous to safely transport students home at the LEAP program end time, the transportation department will notify the LEAP Director no later than 2:00 pm.

At both Washington Academic Middle School and Sanger High School, an announcement will be made over the intercom before regular school release time, alerting all students that the LEAP buses will be cancelled. Students may then choose to ride the school bus home at regular dismissal time if necessary. These school sites will also send a phone message out to inform parents that LEAP buses are cancelled. LEAP program will remain open until 6:00 p.m., or until the last student is picked up. Under these circumstances, student absences will be considered *Excused* in LEAP attendance records.

At all elementary school sites hosting LEAP programs, students will report to LEAP as normal. LEAP staff will individually contact parents of bus riders to let them know that LEAP buses are cancelled and also to request that parents arrange safe pick up of their student(s) at their earliest convenience due to the fog. LEAP will remain open until 6:00 p.m., or until the last student is picked up.

02/18

SUSD