

## Background and Current Climate

MVWSD faces increasing safety and liability concerns, notably highlighted by ongoing Sexual Abuse and Molestation (SAMs) cases. These issues led to heightened scrutiny over who could transport students. Historically, parent drivers were utilized, but several significant risks were associated with this practice. Parent drivers were not thoroughly vetted, there were no safety checks on their vehicles, and parents were often alone with students, raising substantial liability concerns. Additionally, insurance requirements were a barrier for some families, complicating the process further.

In the 2023-2024 school year MVWSD stopped allowing parents to drive on field trips due to safety and equity concerns. The only school in the district that utilized parents as drivers was Stevenson.

## Bus Driver Requirements and Other Laws

Bus drivers are subjected to rigorous requirements, including 20 hours of classroom instruction, physical exams, multiple written and driving tests, and ongoing drug testing. They must pass background checks and undergo continuous training to ensure their suitability to work with children. These drivers are also enrolled in the DMV EPN program, which provides real-time updates on their driving records. Buses themselves undergo daily pre-trip inspections and maintenance checks every 45 days to ensure safety.

## SB 88

Effective July 1, 2025, SB 88 mandates stringent requirements for drivers employed or contracted by school districts to transport students in vehicles with a maximum capacity of 10, including the driver. The law requires drivers to have a satisfactory driving record, undergo a criminal background check and fingerprinting, participate in the DMV Employer Pull Notice (EPN) program, and comply with drug and alcohol testing. Additionally, drivers must complete a medical examination every two years, submit TB clearance, adhere to limitations on driving hours, and receive initial and ongoing student transportation training. Vehicles must be equipped with a first aid kit and fire extinguisher and undergo inspections every 12 months or 50,000 miles at a Bureau of Automotive Repair-licensed facility.

## Stevenson Trips

Off-site and On-site Experiences	2022-2023	2023-2024
Kinder	10	7

First	10	7
Second	7	7
Third	10	11
Fourth	6	5
Fifth	6	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>

Staff and parents are split on the desire for having parent drivers. Information was gathered at a staff meeting and PACT Foundation meeting by the site principal.

In the 2023-2024 year, PACT paid \$37,849 for transportation, \$11,475 of which was for an overnight trip to Coloma.

In the 2022-2023 year PACT spent \$7,694 on transportation. Parent drivers drove to the Coloma trip.

**Options for Parent Drivers**

The board requested that staff present options for allowing Stevenson to use parent drivers. Below is a table outlining possible options.

Least Conservative → Most Conservative

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Parent Insurance and indemnification (requirement of \$1,0000 for liability, SAMs etc. based on attorney and insurance advice)	X	X	X	X
DMV records one week prior, pulled by parents verified by principal. Any infraction would disqualify a parent.	X	X		
DMV EPN Program (in real time notices)			X	X
Complete background check as part of volunteer process	X	X	X	X
Written parent consent to ride in another parent's car. If consent is not granted school/charter transportation must be used.		X	X	X
Release of emergency information of student medical information to parents driving			X	X
Two non-related adults in the car				X

### Challenges and New Process for Booking Trips

The district faced logistical challenges in organizing trips during the 2023-2024 school year. These included the retirement of a key dispatcher, a shortage of bus drivers, and scheduling difficulties that complicated the trip-booking process. To address these issues, the district plans to implement TripFinder, a technological solution designed to streamline field trip requests, approvals, and resource allocations. TripFinder will eliminate communication gaps, track approval stages, and manage scheduling conflicts effectively.

### Next Year

What options or hybrid of options would the board like to choose to move forward with?