



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Field Trips, Parent Drivers, and the DMV Employer Pull Notice Program

June 13, 2024



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Strategic Plan 2021

Goal 5 Resource Stewardship

Goal 5: Students, staff and community members will have access to various resources, such as technology, facilities, furniture, equipment, etc., in a fiscally responsible manner, to fulfill the mission of MVWSD.



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Background

Current Climate

- The district is investigating and also named in current Sexual Abuse and Molestation cases (SAMs).
- SAMs case are often settled before going to court due to the significant cost of litigation.
- The settlements and increased insurance premiums take away from what could be spent in the classroom

Large Public Entity Verdicts/Settlements

Large Public Entity Verdicts/Settlements



Loss Year	Description	Total Paid
2018	Sexual Abuse (Class Action)	\$500,000,000
2017	Sexual Abuse (Class Action)	\$215,000,000
2015	Methane Gas Leak	\$120,000,000
2015	Bus Shelter Collapse (Single Plaintiff)	\$115,000,000
2014	Child Abuse/Foster Care	\$113,400,000
2011	Police Shooting/Wrongful Death	\$97,000,000
2014	Dangerous Condition/Landslide	\$71,500,000
2016	Vehicle Accident/Fire Ambulance	\$65,750,000
2016	Wrongful Death	\$60,000,000
2015	Strip Search (Class Action)	\$53,000,000
2012	Dangerous Condition/Bridge Fire	\$50,000,000
2017	Vehicle Accident/Motorcycle vs Auto	\$46,000,000
2015	Vehicle Accident/Sherriff Vehicle	\$42,000,000
2011	Wrongful Conviction	\$40,000,000
2014	Dangerous Condition/Vehicle Accident	\$32,500,000
2015	Sexual Abuse	\$31,000,000
2016	Dangerous Condition/Vehicle Accident	\$30,000,000



Median Average -Top 50 verdicts

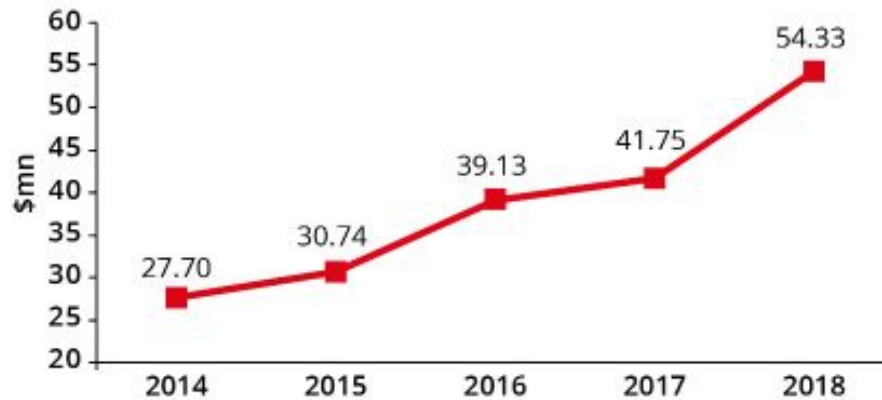
Hyper Social Inflation



“ Social Inflation is a uniquely American phenomenon because the United States is the only country in the world that routinely uses jury trials for civil cases. Jurors have unconscious biases derived from the culmination of their life experiences.”



Median average – top 50 US verdicts

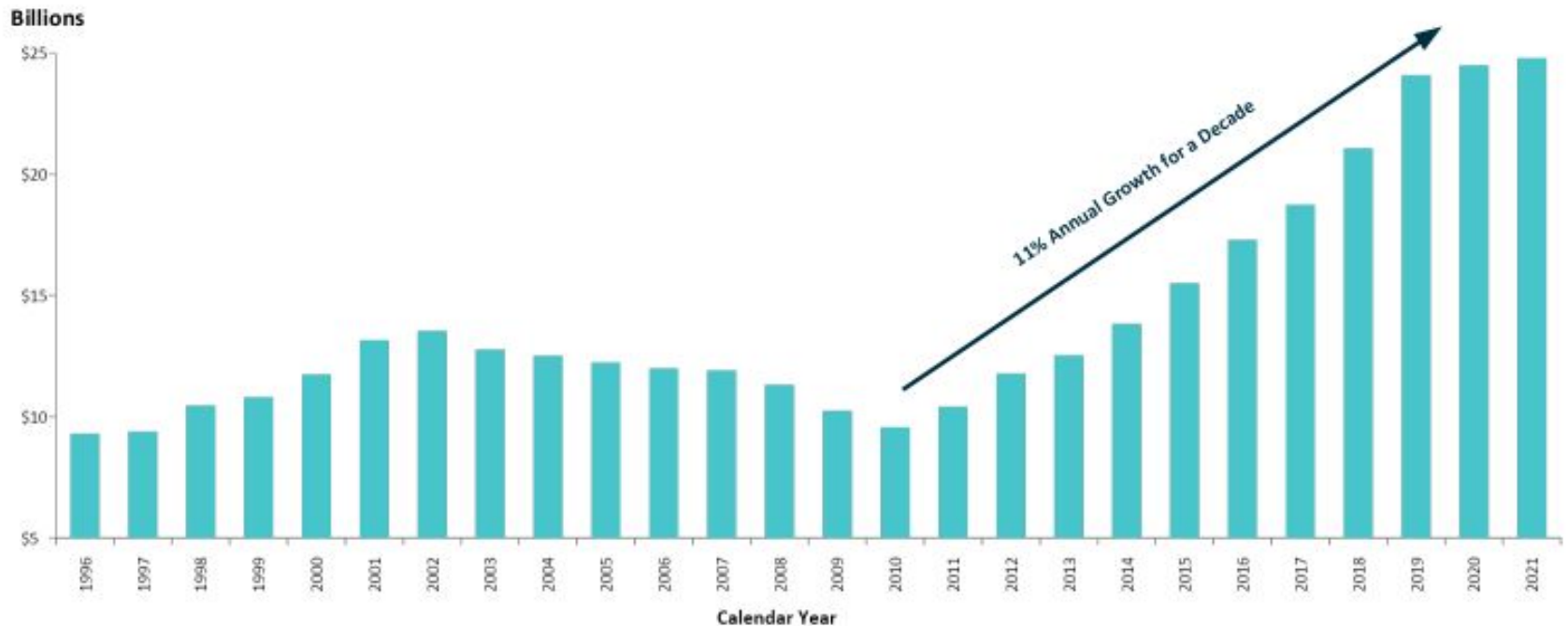


Source: Shaub, Ahmuty, Citrin & Spratt



Upward trend in Liability Claims

Upward Trend in Liability Claims



Source: NAIC data sourced from S&P Market Intelligence; Insurance Information Institute.



The Change

- In the 23-24 school year MVWSD stopped allowing parents to drive on field trips due to safety and equity concerns.
 - The only school that utilized parent drivers was Stevenson.
 - Parent drivers are not fully vetted
 - The level of insurance required to drive was cited as a reason some Stevenson parents could not drive.

Previous Process

- DMV record pulled by the parent up to one one week in advance. If the district pulled the record, a minimum of 1.5 month notice is required due to the DMV process.
- Any accident would disqualify a driver since staff does not have the training to investigate accident records.
- Proof of insurance- the level of insurance requested was seen as a barrier to participate. District requested \$250,000 each person/\$500,000 per accident and \$100,000 property damage based on counsel
- Fingerprinting takes up to 6 weeks to process and is paid by parents or school site funds.

The Concern

- With the previous system parents could be involved in a significant accident over the weekend and drive on a Monday field trip.
- There is no safety check on the vehicle and no driver training.
- Parents would be alone in the car with students without supervision. The liability this places on the district is significant.
- If the field trip is part of the curriculum (OLE) and a parent does not want their child driven by a parent there was not other option provided for participation.



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Current Laws for Bus Drivers and Student Transportation

Bus Driver Safeguards

- Have a minimum of 20 hours of classroom instruction
- Pass a physical examination
- Pass 4 written tests at the DMV Be able to pass 2 written tests at the CHP
- Pass the driving tests with the CHP
- Pass a pre-employment drug test and fingerprinting registration
- Additional random drug tests
- Cameras on buses

Bus Driver Safeguards

- Interviewed for character
- Clean driving record
- Background check
- Ability to work well with children and ongoing training
- Daily pre-trip inspections
- 45 day maintenance inspections
- Be enrolled in the DMV Employer Pull Notice Program (DMV EPN)

DMV Employer Pull Notice Program

Every year on the enrollment date, the EPN program automatically generates a driver record when any of the following actions or activities occurs:

- The driver is enrolled in the EPN program.
- Notifications when a driver has any of the following actions or activities added to their driver record:

Convictions.

Failures to appear (FTAs)

Accidents/DUIs

Driver's license suspensions or revocations.

Any other actions taken against their driving privilege

SB 88 (new law)

State is increasing vetting for some vehicles. Example:

- The State is regulating ALL drivers with the exception of parent drivers
- New law going into effect July 1, 2025
- Establishes new requirements for drivers employed or contracted by a district to provide transportation services to students in a vehicle with a max capacity of 10 (including the driver)
- Satisfactory driving record
- Criminal background check and fingerprinting

Mountain View Whisman School District Participation in DMV EPN program

SB 88

- Comply with drug and alcohol testing subject to cannabis discrimination limitations
- Complete a medical examination and provide a copy of the medical examiner's certificate of clearance every two years.
- Submit TB clearance
- Limitations on hours

SB 88

- Complete initial and subsequent student transportation training
- Complete pre-trip inspections
- First aid certified
- Vehicles must have a first aid kit and fire extinguisher
- Be inspected every 12 months or 50,000 miles at a facility licensed by the Bureau of Automotive Repair



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Update on Stevenson Trips

22-23 and 23-24 Comparison

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
Total	49	45

- Staff are split on the desire for having parent drivers and parents are also split on this.
- Stevenson participated in almost the same number of trips as they did last school year at an added cost to the school

Costs to Stevenson

\$37,849 paid by PACT in 23-24 (\$11,475 of this was transportation cost to overnight trip to Coloma)

\$7,694 paid by PACT in 22-23. Parent drivers were used for the Coloma trip.

Fulfillment of Buses

Total Field Trips requiring transportation and funded by PACT	36	
# using MVWSD bus	10	28%
# No driver available during operating hours	17	47%
# Outside of operating hours	9	25%

Use of Parent Drivers - Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages of using parent drivers	Disadvantages of using parent drivers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cost to parent group budget is much lower<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Some destinations allow only one class at a time which triples the bus cost, parent drivers eliminates this○ No bus booking costs○ Bus availability is not consistent, causing parent groups to use other districts or charter buses which has a higher cost● Encourages parent involvement in their school, similar to other parent participation schools in the area● Allows a school to take a greater number of field trips if they choose <p>Mountain View Whisman School District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Not all parents agree with using parent drivers and not all staff agree the process is desirable● Some parents are concerned about their child's safety in someone else's car● Driving skills of parents are not guaranteed and there are no requirements to demonstrate driving skill and safety knowledge as there are with bus drivers● Insurance requirements are difficult for some families● Finding sufficient parent drivers for a given trip is not consistent and adds burden to teachers and parents making the arrangements● The process to be allowed to drive is complex● The process to clear a parent driver adds tasks to site and district personnel and adds operating cost to the district● Parent drivers do not all arrive at the destination at the same time, causing logistical difficulties● Parent drivers are alone with students for an extended period of time



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Board Choices If Parent Drivers are Allowed

Board Request

- The board requested that staff present options that allow Stevenson to use parent drivers.
- Staff had previously presented that it felt it was safest for all students to take buses.

Options for Allowing Parent Drivers

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



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New Process for Booking Trips

Challenges to Trips in the 23-24 Year

- Retirement of dispatcher which was not replaced
- Short at least 1 bus driver for more than 75% of the year
- Some trips were outside of the times MVWSD buses could transport
- Challenges in completing multiple request forms when scheduling transportation and delays in receiving responses from staff managing the approvals. A google form was used.

TripFinder

- TripFinder is a technological solution solely designed for managing field trip requests, approvals and resource allocations.
- We currently use google docs but will replace the current process in the next year with TripFinder.
- TripFinder provides selected district personnel secure access and enables them to submit requests, identify students for the trips, and monitor approvals.

TripFinder

- Eliminates communication gaps and inefficiencies prevalent in the current field trip management approach. Incorporate various approval stages and tracks the history of the request as it moves toward final approval
- Send email notifications to keep the right people informed, at the right time.
- Has a calendar system so requesters can see all dates that are available for transportation.

TripFinder

- District personnel simply submit electronic field trip requests
- Documentation can be uploaded, attached and viewed by requesters and approvers for each field trip request
- Administrators can oversee the educational legitimacy of the requests and ensure that an appropriate budget is available to cover the costs
- At a glance calendar where you can see what is currently scheduled for a given day, week or month and avoid any scheduling conflicts



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Board Direction and Questions

Questions

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