

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

El Dorado County School Bus Transportation General Review

Reason for the Report

The Grand Jury selected El Dorado County school bus transportation for general review.

Scope of the Investigation

The Grand Jury did the following:

- Surveyed transportation offices of each school;
- Analyzed data obtained from the surveys;
- Obtained information from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) pertaining to safety conditions of school busses.

Background

School bus transportation has not been reviewed by the Grand Jury in the recent past, therefore it was decided to undertake such an investigation.

A one-page survey was created and mailed to the transportation supervisors of each school providing bus transportation. All surveys were returned and analyzed. A total of 17 school districts provide bus transportation. Most school districts own their own busses. Expenses for maintenance of busses vary considerably from one school to another. The main finding is that none of the districts had any substantial safety problems to report regarding their bus transportation over the past two years

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is responsible for annual safety inspections of each school bus operating in the State of California. The committee received a copy of the safety review (Exception report) from the CHP Safety Review officer for each bus operating in El Dorado County.

The CHP provided this committee with a report of exceptions to safety inspections, according to individual schools and school districts. This report, which notes any exceptions to approved safety conditions, revealed that no school district bus received a significant exception report during the past year although a few minor exceptions were noted and had been corrected.

Findings

- F1. School districts within El Dorado County offer school bus transportation to hundreds of students each day throughout the year.
- F2. All school buses in the 17 school districts are inspected annually by a safety inspection program of the California Highway Patrol, and no substantial safety exceptions were noted during the past year.

No Recommendations