

HOME-TO-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Changes for 2010-2011 School Year

August 10, 2010

Dear Parent and/or Guardian of a High School Student,

The continued economic recession in the State of California has taken a heavy toll on schools, cities and other governmental agencies in terms of available dollars for ongoing services. The Desert Sands Unified School District has not escaped these difficulties. Over the last two years, we have had to reduce the district's operational budget by \$12.4 million.

Further reductions of \$15 million are necessary in the 2010/2011 fiscal year for Desert Sands Unified School District to remain fiscally solvent. These additional funding reductions made it necessary to reduce operating costs of programs throughout the district.

A District Finance Committee composed of staff, business leaders and parents studied anticipated school funding from the State, increasing costs and projected expenditures of the school system in order to develop a series of recommendations for the Governing Board to consider in preparing a balanced budget. These recommendations were shared with the community at three Budget Study Sessions that were held in February and March 2010.

One of the items proposed as a program reduction was the elimination of high school transportation, a savings of over \$700,000. Board action on a number of budget cutting measures, including this one, were considered and adopted on June 29, 2010.

According to our records, your student(s) live in an area where bussing was previously provided. This letter is to inform you that while we sincerely regret it, the severity of the funding reductions to K-12 education leaves us little choice. Effective immediately, Desert Sands Unified School District will no longer be able to provide school bus transportation services for your high school student to/from the school site.

We are pleased to inform you that for the 2010-2011 school year there will be no changes to elementary and middle school service areas.

Sincerely,

Cindy McDaniel
Assistant Superintendent
Business Services
Desert Sands Unified School District