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# California's School Transportation Crisis:

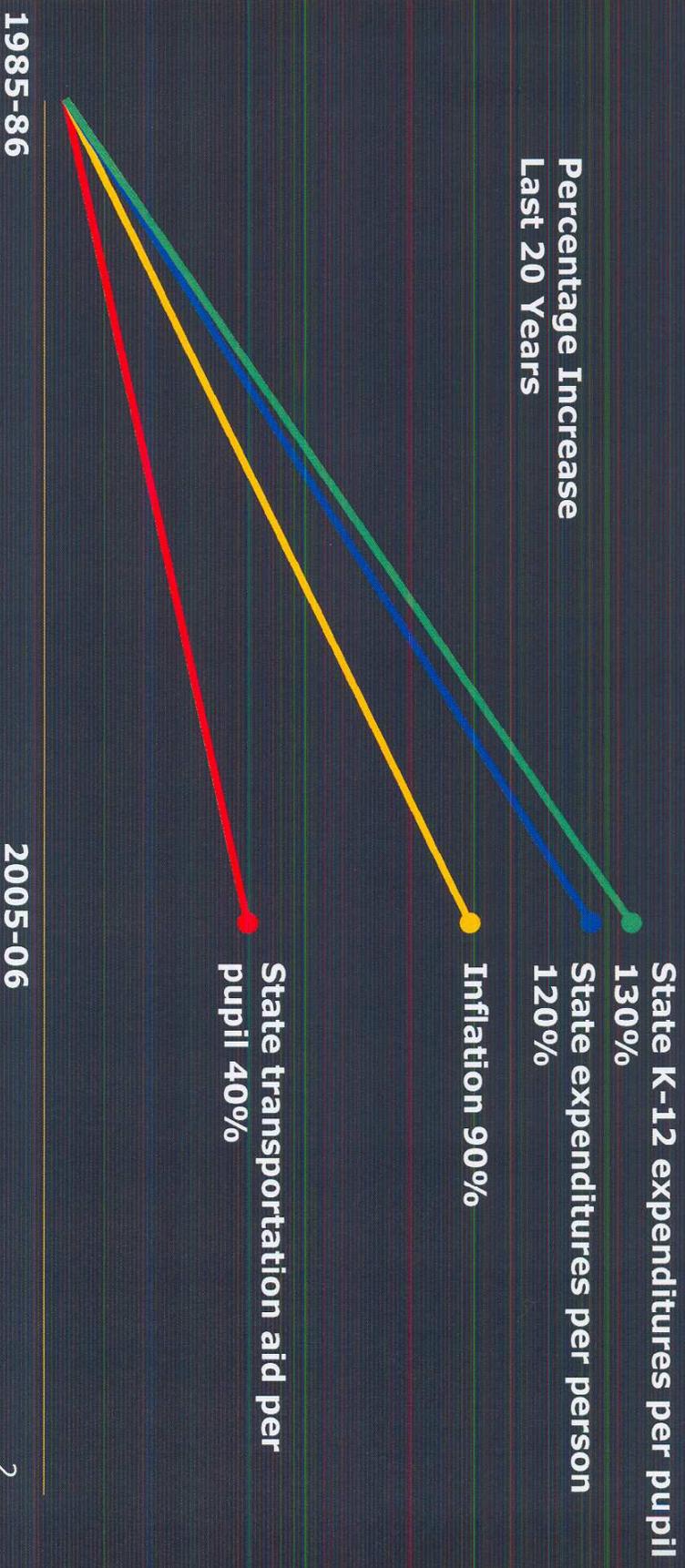
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**School Transportation  
Background Material for the  
ARB Board Members**

**ARB Presentation  
March 27, 2008**

# California's School Transportation Crisis:

## School Transportation Has Been Severely Underfunded



# California's School Transportation Crisis:

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## California is Dead Last

Percentage of Children that Ride School Buses:

California:



16%

National Average:



54%

# California's School Transportation Crisis:

## The Options for School Districts Are Stark

The state reimburses school districts for less than 50% of their state approved transportation costs.

- Many school districts, especially in wealthy areas, have cut back or eliminated their transportation program. In 20 years we have had a 40% decline in the number of children that ride buses.
- Children are walking longer distances. California does not have a limit on the walking distance to school.
- More children are transported in cars.
- There are no state reimbursements for field trips or sporting events.
- Rural school districts and many urban school districts with a large number of low-income students must take money out of the classroom to fund their transportation needs.

**Districts with a large number of low-income students must take money out of the classroom**

Regular Transportation

<u>School District</u>	<u>% Latino</u>	<u>% Free and Reduced Lunch</u>	<u>% Approved Cost</u>
West Contra Costa Unified	44%	60%	11%
Calexico	99	75	26
Baldwin Park Unified	85	68	8
Inglewood Unified	57	74	2
Montebello Unified	93	75	28
Los Angeles Unified	73	73	53
Pomona Unified	80	73	33
Merced Union High	50	76	34
Fontana Unified	82	70	38
Ontario-Montclair Elem	86	76	23

## California's School Transportation Crisis:

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**The Coalition for Clean Air, the Union for Concerned Scientists, and the American Lung Association all agree that:**

- ❑ California needs a major increase in funding to upgrade its aging bus fleet in order to protect the health and safety of its school children.
- ❑ California schools should not have to choose between books and buses.

## California's School Fiscal Crisis:

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Under the Governor's Proposed  
Budget

School Transportation Programs and  
Special Education Programs will be  
cut by 6.5% from this years level  
of funding.