



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and High School Principals:

**SCHOOL PROMS—LIMOUSINE, PARTY BUS, AND RIDE SERVICES**

As the high school prom season approaches, we would like to alert school officials to potential problems involving unlicensed transportation services and encourage communication with parents and students.

California has a strong safety program through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which regulates limousines, party buses, and ride services such as Uber and Lyft.

These charter/party carrier companies must be licensed by the CPUC and must maintain between \$750,000 and \$5 million in liability insurance coverage depending on the vehicle seating capacity. Unlicensed companies may carry little or no insurance. In fact, the primary reason a company would operate without a license is to avoid the CPUC's insurance requirements. Licensed companies are subject to regulations designed to protect the public. Among these is a law that requires the transportation provider to take prescribed steps to ensure that minor passengers do not consume alcoholic beverages.

Using a licensed company is no guarantee that the service will be problem-free, but we believe the odds of receiving satisfactory service are greatly increased. Obtaining a written contract will also reduce the likelihood of a problem. Licensed companies are required to show their license (TCP) number in all advertising.

We also strongly recommend verifying the validity of the company's authority. You can do this in two ways. You can check the CPUC Web site at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/MoveandRide](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/MoveandRide) and search using the carrier's company information or download a complete spreadsheet of all passenger carriers and search through the list to verify the carrier's operating authority. The other option is to contact the CPUC's Transportation Enforcement Intake Desk at 800-894-9444 and ask to verify the carrier's operating authority.

Thank you for joining us in committing to make 2016 the safest possible year for our students.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Michael Picker  
President, CPUC

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