

VUSD Transportation Safety Plan

(Complies with 39831.3 EC)

Escorting of Student Passengers

- The law (section 22112 VC) requires that any school pupil, pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade, who must cross the street on which the bus is parked, be given an escort crossing by the driver of the bus.
 - The driver shall keep current on their route sheet stops that require an escorted crossing. Route sheets shall be maintained in the driver's assigned bus, as well as in the dispatch office.
 - Drivers shall also ask at each stop if any student must cross the street on which the bus is parked.
 - Pupils shall not get out of their seat until the bus has come to a complete stop.
 - Pupils should keep one hand free to use the handrail when exiting the bus.
 - Pupils shall exit the bus after the driver. Pupils shall stand at the curb until the driver has given the "all-clear" to cross the street.
 - The driver shall insure that the flashing red signal system is working. The driver shall insure that traffic is clear before giving the "all-clear" signal to the students.
 - Pupils who must cross the street shall cross to the front of the bus, between the bus and the bus driver, and walk directly to the curb.
 - After all pupils who require an escort have crossed, the driver shall insure the area directly in front of the bus and to the side of the bus are clear from pupils, pedestrians, vehicles and other objects before putting the bus into motion.
 - At no time shall any pupils be permitted to cross behind the bus.
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Loading of Student Passengers

- Pupils shall arrive at the bus stop approximately five minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time of the bus.
 - Pupils shall maintain appropriate conduct at the bus stop, similar to classroom behavior. Pupils are not to be destructive of private property at the bus stop.
 - Pupils are instructed stand no closer than twelve feet from where the bus will stop. Pupils shall wait until the bus has stopped and the door has opened before approaching the bus. The driver shall stop the bus no closer than twelve feet from the nearest person at the designated bus stop.
 - After the door has opened, pupils shall proceed in an orderly manner to the bus and board single file.
 - There is to be no shoving or scuffling while boarding or waiting for the bus. One hand should be kept free to use the handrail.
 - Pupils shall be seated promptly and face the front of the bus. Pupils shall not leave their seats while the bus is in motion.
 - Pupils shall observe and follow the rules that are posted in the bus and comply with requests made by the bus driver.
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Unloading of Student Passengers

- Pupils shall remain seated until the bus stops, and the door of the bus has been opened.
 - The school bus crossing light system (red lights, and if the bus is so equipped, amber lights, stop sign, and crossing arm) shall be activated as required.
 - Pupils should keep one hand free to use the handrail while exiting the bus.
 - Pupils shall disembark the bus in an orderly fashion. Pupils are not to shove, push or cause any unnecessary commotion while exiting the bus.
 - Pupils are not to loiter around the bus. After exiting the bus, pupils are to go directly to their destination.
 - At no time shall a pupil be permitted to cross the street unless they are escorted by the bus driver.
 - At no time shall any pupils be permitted to cross behind the bus.
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Safety Instructions, Drills and Presentations

In accordance with the Education Code 39831.5 and School Board Policy 3008 (paragraph C), the Transportation Services Department will provide the following:

1. Prior to the departure on any school activity trip, the driver of the school bus shall give safety instructions, including but not limited to, the location of emergency exits and emergency equipment.
 2. At least once each year, all pre-kindergarten through eighth grade pupils who receive home-to-school transportation shall receive safety instruction in proper loading and unloading procedures, including escort by the school bus driver, proper passenger conduct, bus evacuation, and location of emergency equipment.
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The California Vehicle Code defines a School Bus Accident as:

A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in excess of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) or personal injury, on public or private property, and involving a school bus, youth bus, school pupil activity bus, or general public paratransit vehicle with a pupil on board; a collision between a vehicle and any pupil or the bus driver while the pupil or driver is crossing the highway when the school bus flashing red signal (cross-over) lamps are required to be operated pursuant to Section 22112 VC; or injury of a pupil inside the bus as a result of acceleration, deceleration, or other movement of the bus. **All school bus accidents shall be investigated by the California Highway Patrol.**

Procedures for a School Bus Accident

- The driver shall notify dispatch of their location and inform them that they are involved in a school bus accident.
 - Dispatch shall contact CHP and if any pupils are injured emergency medical personal shall be dispatched.
 - In the event of a school bus accident the school site Principal, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Director of Transportation shall be notified.
 - Parents or guardians of special education students shall be notified if their child is involved in a school bus accident.
 - The school site shall notify parents or guardians of any injured regular education student.
 - Pupils shall be released by a CHP officer.
 - If any pupils are injured they will be transported to the nearest hospital or the hospital determined to be most appropriate by Paramedics.
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Education Code section:

39831.3. (a) The county superintendent of schools, the superintendent of a school district, or the owner or operator of a private school that provides transportation to or from a school or school activity shall prepare a transportation safety plan containing procedures for school personnel to follow to ensure the safe transport of pupils. The plan shall be revised as required. The plan shall address all of the following:

(1) Determining if pupils require escort pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 22112 of the Vehicle **Code**.

(2) (A) Procedures for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, to follow as they board and exit the appropriate schoolbus at each pupil's schoolbus stop.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph requires a county superintendent of schools, the superintendent of a school district, or the owner or operator of a private school that provides transportation to or from a school or school activity, to use the services of an onboard schoolbus monitor, in addition to the driver, to carry out the purposes of this paragraph.

(3) Boarding and exiting a schoolbus at a school or other trip destination.

(b) A current copy of a plan prepared pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be retained by each school subject to the plan and made available upon request to an officer of the Department of the California Highway Patrol.

Section 22112 of the California Vehicle Code reads:

22112. (a) On approach to a schoolbus stop where pupils are loading or unloading from a schoolbus, the schoolbus driver shall activate an approved amber warning light system, if the schoolbus is so equipped, beginning 200 feet before the schoolbus stop. The schoolbus driver shall deactivate the amber warning light system after reaching the schoolbus stop. The schoolbus driver shall operate the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm, as required on the schoolbus, at all times when the schoolbus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils. The flashing red light signal system, amber warning lights system, and stop signal arm shall not be operated at any place where traffic is controlled by a traffic officer or at any location identified in subdivision (e) of this section. The schoolbus flashing red light signal system, amber warning light system, and stop signal arm shall not be operated at any other time. (b) The schoolbus driver shall stop to load or unload pupils only at a schoolbus stop designated for pupils by the school district superintendent or authorized by the superintendent for school activity trips.

(c) When a schoolbus is stopped on a highway or private road for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer, the driver shall, before opening the door, ensure that the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm are activated, and that it is safe to enter or exit the schoolbus.

(d) When a schoolbus is stopped on a highway or private road for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or official traffic control signal, the schoolbus driver shall do all of the following:

(1) Escort all pupils in pre kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1 to 8, inclusive, who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the schoolbus is stopped. The driver shall use an approved hand-held "STOP" sign while escorting all pupils.

(2) Require all pupils who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the schoolbus is stopped to walk in front of the bus as they cross.

(3) Ensure that all pupils who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the schoolbus is stopped have crossed safely, and that all other unloaded pupils and pedestrians are a safe distance from the schoolbus before setting the schoolbus in motion.

(e) Except at a location where pupils are loading or unloading from a schoolbus and must cross a highway or private road upon which the schoolbus is stopped, the schoolbus driver may not activate the amber warning light system, the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm at any of the following locations:

(1) Schoolbus loading zones on or adjacent to school grounds or during an activity trip, if the schoolbus is lawfully stopped or parked.

(2) Where the schoolbus is disabled due to mechanical breakdown. The driver of a relief bus that arrives at the scene to transport pupils from the disabled schoolbus shall not activate the amber warning light system, the flashing red light system, and stop signal arm.

(3) Where a pupil requires physical assistance from the driver or authorized attendant to board or leave the schoolbus and providing the assistance extends the length of time the schoolbus is stopped beyond the time required to load or unload a pupil that does not require physical assistance.

(4) Where the roadway surface on which the bus is stopped is partially or completely covered by snow or ice and requiring traffic to stop would pose a safety hazard as determined by the schoolbus motor carrier.

(5) On a state highway with a posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour or higher where the schoolbus is completely off the main traveled portion of the highway.

(6) Any location determined by a school district, with the approval of the Department of the California Highway Patrol, to present a traffic or safety hazard.

(f) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, the Department of the California Highway Patrol may require the activation of an approved flashing amber warning light system, if the schoolbus is so equipped, or the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm, as required on the schoolbus, at any location where the department determines that the activation is necessary for the safety of school pupils loading or unloading from a schoolbus.
