

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES

Cautionary Notice: Government Code 17581.5 relieves districts from the obligation to perform specified mandated activities when the Budget Act does not provide reimbursement during that fiscal year. The Budget Act of 2018 (SB 840, Ch. 29, Statutes of 2018) extends the suspension of these requirements through the 2018-19 fiscal year. As a result, certain provisions of the following administrative regulation related to transportation safety plans and safety instruction for students may be suspended.

Each day, prior to driving a school bus, each school bus driver shall inspect the bus to ensure that it is in safe operating condition and equipped as required by law and that all equipment is in good working order. At the completion of each day's work, the driver shall prepare and sign a written report of the condition of the equipment specified in 13 CCR 1215. The report shall indicate any defect or deficiency discovered by or reported to the driver which would affect safe operation or result in mechanical breakdown of the bus. If no defect or deficiency is discovered or reported, the driver shall so indicate on the report. Any defect or deficiency that would affect safe operation shall be repaired prior to operating the bus. (13 CCR 1215)

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

(cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)

(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)

Passenger Restraint Systems

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any school bus or student activity bus which is purchased or leased by the district is equipped with a combination pelvic and upper torso passenger restraint system at all designated seating positions if that bus: (Vehicle Code 27316, 27316.5; 13 CCR 1201)

1. Is a Type 1 school bus designed for carrying more than 16 passengers and the driver, and was manufactured on or after July 1, 2005
2. Is a Type 2 school bus or student activity bus designed for carrying 16 or fewer passengers and the driver, or for carrying 20 or fewer passengers and the driver if the bus has a manufacturer's vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, and was manufactured on or after April 1, 1977

The Superintendent or designee shall prioritize the allocation of school buses purchased, leased, or contracted to ensure that elementary students receive first priority for new school buses equipped with passenger restraint systems whenever feasible.

When a school bus or student activity bus is equipped with a passenger restraint system, all passengers shall use the passenger restraint system. (5 CCR 14105)

Bus drivers shall be instructed regarding procedures to enforce the proper use of the passenger restraint system. Students who fail to follow instructions of the bus driver may be subject to discipline, including suspension of riding privileges, in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES (continued)*(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)**(cf. 5144 - Discipline)***Fire Extinguishers**

Each school bus shall be equipped with at least one fire extinguisher, located in the driver's compartment, which meets the standards specified in law. In addition, a wheelchair school bus shall have another fire extinguisher placed at the wheelchair loading door or emergency exit. All fire extinguishers shall be regularly inspected and serviced in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Fire Marshal. (Education Code 39838; 13 CCR 1242; 19 CCR 574-575.3)

Child Safety Alert System

In accordance with Vehicle Code 28160, each school bus or student activity bus shall be equipped with an operational child safety alert system at the interior rear of the bus that requires the driver to either manually contact or scan the device, thereby prompting the driver to inspect the entirety of the interior of the vehicle before exiting.

A student activity bus that does not have a child safety alert system may be used only if all of the following apply: (Vehicle Code 28160)

1. The student activity bus is not used exclusively to transport students.
2. When the student activity bus is used to transport students, the students are accompanied by at least one adult chaperone selected by a school official. If an adult chaperone is not a school employee, the chaperone shall meet the requirements for a school volunteer.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

3. One adult chaperone has a list of every student and adult chaperone, including a school employee, who is on the student activity bus at the time of departure.
4. The driver has reviewed all safety and emergency procedures before the initial departure, and the driver and adult chaperone have signed a form, with the time and date, acknowledging that the safety plan and procedures were reviewed.
5. Immediately before departure from any location, the adult chaperone shall account for each student on the list of students, verify the number of students to the driver, and sign a form indicating that all students are present or accounted for.
6. After students have exited a student activity bus, and before driving away, the driver shall check all areas of the bus, including, but not limited to, overhead compartments and bathrooms, to ensure that the bus is vacant.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES (continued)

7. The driver shall sign a form with the time and date verifying that all required procedures have been followed.
8. The information required to be recorded pursuant to items #4, 5, and 7 may be recorded on a single form and shall be retained by the district for a minimum of two years.

Electronic Communications Devices

A bus driver is prohibited from driving a school bus or student activity bus while using a wireless telephone or other electronic wireless communications device except for work-related or emergency purposes, including, but not limited to, contacting a law enforcement agency, health care provider, fire department, or other emergency service agency or entity. In any such permitted situation, the driver shall only use a wireless telephone or device that is specifically designed and configured to allow voice-operated and hands-free operation or a function that requires only a single swipe or tap of the driver's finger provided the device is mounted on the windshield, dashboard, or center console of the bus. (Vehicle Code 23123.5, 23125)

Safe Bus Operations

School buses and student activity buses shall not be operated whenever the number of passengers exceeds bus seating capacity, except when necessary in emergency situations which require that individuals be transported immediately to ensure their safety. (Education Code 39834)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

School bus operations shall be limited when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to 200 feet or less during regular home-to-school transportation service. Bus drivers for school activity trips may discontinue bus operation whenever they determine that it is unsafe to continue operation because of reduced visibility. (Vehicle Code 34501.6)

Unauthorized Entry

The Superintendent or designee may place a notice at bus entrances that warns against unauthorized entry. The driver or another school official may order any person to disembark if that person enters a bus without prior authorization. (Education Code 39842; 13 CCR 1256.5)

(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES (continued)**Transportation Safety Plan for Boarding and Exiting Buses**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a transportation safety plan containing procedures for school personnel to follow to ensure the safe transport of students. The plan shall address all of the following: (Education Code 39831.3)

1. Determination of whether students in grades prekindergarten through 8 require an escort to cross a private road or highway at a bus stop pursuant to Vehicle Code 22112
2. Procedures for all students in grades prekindergarten through 8 to follow as they board and exit the bus at their bus stops
3. Boarding and exiting a school bus at a school or other trip destination
4. Procedures to ensure that a student is not left unattended on a school bus, student activity bus, or, if applicable, youth bus
5. Procedures and standards for designating an adult chaperone, other than the driver, to accompany students on a school activity bus

A copy of the plan shall be kept at each school site and made available upon request to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). (Education Code 39831.3)

Parental Notifications

The Superintendent or designee shall provide written safety information to the parents/guardians of all students in grades prekindergarten through 6 who have not previously been transported in a district school bus or student activity bus. This information shall be provided upon registration and shall contain: (Education Code 39831.5)

1. A list of school bus stops near each student's home
2. General rules of conduct at school bus loading zones
3. Red light crossing instructions
4. A description of the school bus danger zone
5. Instructions for safely walking to and from school bus stops

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES (continued)**Student Instruction**

Students who are transported in a school bus or student activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety as follows: (Education Code 39831.5; 5 CCR 14102)

1. Each year, all students in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12 inclusive who receive home-to-school transportation in a school bus or school pupil activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety.
2. At least once each school year, all students in grades prekindergarten through 8 who receive home-to-school transportation shall receive safety instruction which includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Proper loading and unloading procedures, including escorting by the driver
 - b. How to safely cross the street, highway, or private road
 - c. In school buses with passenger restraint systems, instruction in the use of such systems as specified in 5 CCR 14105, including, but not limited to, the proper fastening and release of the passenger restraint system, acceptable placement of passenger restraint systems on students, times at which the passenger restraint systems should be fastened and released, and acceptable placement of the passenger restraint systems when not in use
 - d. Proper passenger conduct
 - e. Bus evacuation procedures
 - f. Location of emergency equipment

As part of this instruction, students shall evacuate the school bus through emergency exit doors. Instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit.

The following information shall be documented each time the instruction required by paragraph 2 above is given:

- a. District name
- b. School name and location
- c. Date of instruction

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES (continued)

- d. Names of supervising adults
- e. Number of students participating
- f. Grade levels of students
- g. Subjects covered in instruction
- h. Amount of time taken for instruction
- i. Bus driver's name
- j. Bus number
- k. Additional remarks

This documentation shall be kept on file at the district office or the school for one year and shall be available for inspection by the CHP.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

3. Before departing on a school activity trip, all students riding on a school bus or student activity bus shall receive safety instruction which includes, but is not limited to, the location of emergency exits and the location and use of emergency equipment. This instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit.

Bus Accidents

In the event of a school bus accident, the driver shall immediately notify the CHP and the Superintendent or designee. The driver shall not leave the immediate vicinity of the bus to seek aid unless necessary. (13 CCR 1219)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a report of each accident that occurred on public or private property involving a school bus with students aboard. The report shall contain pertinent details of the accident and shall be retained for 12 months from the date of the accident. If the accident was not investigated by the CHP, the Superintendent or designee shall forward a copy of the report to the local CHP within five work days of the date of the accident. (13 CCR 1234)

The Superintendent or designee shall review all investigations of bus incidents and accidents to develop preventative measures.

(cf. 4112.42/4212.42/4312.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers)

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

39830-39843 Transportation, school buses

39860 Contract for transportation; requirement that student not be left unattended

51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

PENAL CODE

241.3 Assault against school bus driver

243.3 Battery against school bus driver

VEHICLE CODE

415 Definition of motor vehicle

545-546 Definition of school bus and student activity bus

22112 Loading and unloading passengers

23123.5 Use of wireless telephone or communications device while driving; exceptions

23125 Use of wireless telephone prohibited while driving school bus

27316-27316.5 Passenger restraint systems

28160 Child safety alert system

34500 California Highway Patrol responsibility to regulate safe operation of school buses

34501.5 California Highway Patrol responsibility to adopt rules re: safe operation of school buses

34501.6 School buses; reduced visibility

34508 California Highway Patrol responsibility to adopt rules re: equipment and bus operations

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

14100-14105 School buses and student activity buses

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

1200-1294 Motor carrier safety

2480 Airborne toxic control measure; limitation on bus idling

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 19

574-575.3 Inspection and maintenance of fire extinguishers

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 49

571.1-571.500 Motor vehicle standards, including school buses

Management Resources: (next page)

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES (continued)

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Passenger Restraints Frequently Asked Questions

WEB SITES

American School Bus Council: <http://www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org>

California Association of School Business Officials: <http://www.casbo.org>

California Association of School Transportation Officials: <http://www.castoways.org>

California Department of Education, Office of School Transportation: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/tn>

California Highway Patrol: <http://www.chp.ca.gov>

National Transportation Safety Board: <http://www.nts.gov>

*U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>*

Regulation

approved: April 14, 1997

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revised: August 22, 2000

revised: January 23, 2001

revised: October 8, 2002

revised: April 9, 2013

revised: October 2, 2017

revised: May 23, 2019

revised: September 11, 2023

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Transportation Department
Transportation Safety Plan

State of California

EDUCATION CODE

Section 39831.3

39831.3. (a) The county superintendent of schools, the superintendent of a school district, a charter school, 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 (1) of subdivision (d) 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 school bus at each pupil's school bus stop.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph requires a county superintendent of schools, the superintendent of a school district, a charter school, 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 school bus monitor, in addition to the driver, to carry out the purposes of this paragraph.
- (3) Boarding and exiting a school bus at a school or other trip destination.
- (4) Procedures to ensure that a pupil is not left unattended on a school bus, school pupil activity bus, or youth bus.
- (5) Procedures and standards for designating an adult chaperone, other than the driver, to accompany pupils on a school pupil activity bus.

(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.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 721, Sec. 2. (SB 1072) Effective January 1, 2017.)

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Transportation Safety Plan

The Visalia Unified School District Transportation Safety Plan includes the following:

- (A) Walking distances to school and walking distances to meet the bus on routes.
- (B) Procedures for students to follow while walking to and from bus stops.
- (C) Rules of conduct at school bus loading zones.
- (D) Safety rules and procedures for school bus stops.
- (E) Escorted crossing procedures and the school bus danger zone.
- (F) Procedures to ensure that a pupil is not left unattended on a school bus or school pupil activity bus.
- (G) Rules of conduct aboard the school bus and conduct code offenses.
- (H) School bus emergency procedures.
- (I) Foggy day procedures.
- (J) Inclement weather procedures.
- (K) Rules of the road for parents.

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Administration Regulation (3541.a)

Transportation: (559) 730-7856 • Foggy Day Information: (559) 730-7594

A. Walking Distance to School

The district shall furnish transportation to those students involved at the various grade levels who live beyond the distances from the school as listed below. For grades kindergarten through six, these distances shall be measured by using the most direct route from the student's residence to school. For grades seven through 12, these distances shall be measured by using a radius from the school.

1. All pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 through 3.....one mile
2. All pupils in grades 4 through 6.....two and one-half miles
3. All pupils in grades 7 through 8.....two and one-half miles, radius
4. All pupils in grades 9 through 12.....three miles, radius

Consideration for varying these distances may be given for those students with special medical reasons. This requires a statement from the family doctor with the need explained and the length of time this special transportation will be needed. Medical permits shall be renewed each school year. All other students living within the walking distance may also petition for transportation. Special consideration requests may be submitted and shall be renewed each school year by the parent or guardian.

Walking Distances to Meet the Bus on Routes

Bus routes shall be planned to give students the best possible service. Every effort shall be made to locate the bus stops at points where pupils can be loaded and discharged safely and conveniently. In areas where pupils live at considerable distances from each other, the school bus may need to stop at each point along the route that is nearest to the pupil's home rather than at central gathering points. In areas where students live close together, they may be required to walk to certain designated bus stops located at intervals along the route. The following is considered reasonable walking distance to meet buses.

1. Students in kindergarten and grades 1 through 3.....one-half mile
2. Students in grades 4 through 12.....three-fourths mile

B. Procedures to Follow While Walking to and from Bus Stops

1. Parents and students should choose the safest route to the bus stop.
2. Parents of pre-kindergarten through grade 3 students should walk with their students to the bus stop prior to the first day riding the bus.
3. Leave home early enough to arrive at your school bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
4. Always go directly to the bus stop. Do not talk to strangers and do not accept rides.

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5. Cross at crosswalks. Keep to the right in crosswalks.
6. Before crossing, look in all directions.
7. At intersections controlled by signal lights, cross only on the proper signal.
8. Watch for cars. Be sure that it is clear before you cross.
9. Avoid crossing between parked cars.
10. Where there are no sidewalks and it is necessary to walk in the roadway, walk on the left side of the street, facing oncoming traffic.
11. Wear or carry retro-reflective material at night to help make you visible to others.
12. Do not chase or follow anything into the street.
13. Walk in an orderly manner, respecting the property of others.
14. Avoid horseplay; it can result in injuries.

C. Rules of Conduct at School Bus Loading Zones.

1. Do not push or shove each other.
2. Stay clear of the roadway. Stand on the sidewalk or driveway if possible.
3. Do not throw objects.
4. While waiting at the bus stop, do not stand on private property and yards. Respect the property of others.
5. Wait for the bus in an orderly manner. No horseplay.
6. Do not use profane language.
7. Wait at least twelve feet from the edge of the roadway in a single file line until the bus has come to a complete stop. Do not approach the bus to load until the door of the bus opens.
8. Enter the bus in an orderly manner. Quickly find a seat. **In buses with seat belts, fasten and wear the seat belt properly at all times.** Remain seated while the bus is in motion.

D. Safety Rules and Procedures for School Bus Stops

Visalia Unified School District Board Regulations, in conjunction with the California Education and Vehicle Codes, requires the following:

1. The driver shall stop to load or unload pupils only at a school bus stops designated for that purpose by the school district superintendent or authorized by the superintendent for school activity trips.

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2. Students shall be assigned a designated bus stop by the Transportation Department. Students are to board and exit the bus at their regular designated bus stop only. Drivers shall make every effort to ensure that students comply and will report non-compliance to the Department. Students requesting to exit the school bus at a stop other than their regular designated stop must obtain, and the driver shall be given, written permission from their parent, guardian, or school official.
3. Upon stopping the school bus 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 driver shall determine if there are students loading or unloading who must cross the highway or private road.
4. The school bus driver shall escort all pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, needing to cross the highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped. Escorted stops shall not be made on a divided or multiple lane highway as defined in the Vehicle Code. The driver shall use an approved hand-held "STOP" sign while escorting all pupils. All pupils are required to walk in front of the bus as they cross the road.

For the purposes of Section 39843 of the Education Code, a school bus driver escorting pupils pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 22112 of the Vehicle Code shall not be considered leaving the immediate vicinity of the vehicle.

E. Escorted Crossing Procedures

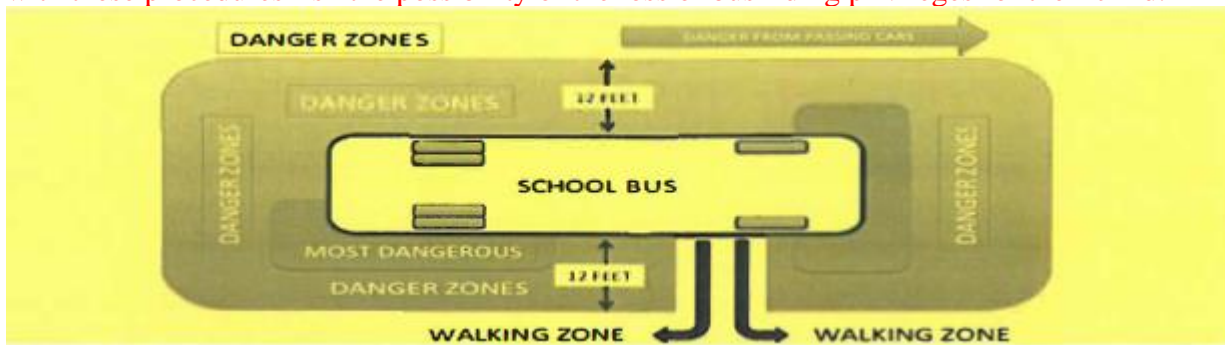
The Transportation Department encourages parents and guardians to discuss with their children the dangers of crossing the street during an escort. Although your driver is a professional, trained in loading and unloading safety procedures, it is important for your child to use extreme caution when crossing the road. Please instruct your child to use the following safety procedures when exiting the bus and they must cross the road at the bus stop:

1. Students shall remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop. The driver will indicate when they should come forward to prepare to exit the bus.
2. The students will follow the driver as he/she exits the bus. Once outside, the students shall stand beside the bus, off of the roadway. Students need to pay close attention to the driver and wait for the driver to tell them that it is safe to cross. Students should never assume traffic will stop nor should they cross without the protection of the school bus driver.
3. When the driver tells the students that it is safe to cross, they are to walk in FRONT of the bus, between the bus and the bus driver. Students should walk quickly, straight across to the other side of the street. Once the students have safely crossed the roadway, the driver will return to the bus. It is very important that the students do not re-enter the roadway as traffic will be ready to proceed and it would be extremely UNSAFE.

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When students require an escort to board the bus, they should wait for the bus a safe distance from the roadway. When the bus arrives, the driver will exit the bus and escort the students across the road. Students need to pay close attention to the driver and wait for the driver to tell them that it is safe to cross. They should walk in FRONT of the bus, between the bus and the bus driver. Students should walk quickly, straight across to the other side of the street and immediately board the bus.

When parents/guardians feel it is necessary to walk across the road to drop-off or pick-up their student from the bus stop, drivers remain lawfully responsible to afford the child the protection of the escorted crossing and will escort both the child and the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians that refuse to comply with these procedures risk the possibility of the loss of bus riding privileges for their child.



The School Bus Danger Zone

There is an area 12 feet around the school bus called the "Danger Zone." Parents and guardians should discuss with their students the hazards of being in this area. It is very dangerous for students to be along the side of the bus and near the wheels and tires. Please see the attached diagram. Students should stay clear of the danger zone and be at least 12 feet from the school bus before boarding and after exiting the school bus. If a student drops something in the danger zone, they should notify the driver of the school bus who will retrieve the item. Under no circumstances should a student ever reach or crawl under the school bus.

F. Procedures to Ensure a Pupil is Not Left Unattended on a School Bus or School Pupil Activity Bus (39831.3 EC)

The Visalia Unified School District Transportation Department is committed to Safe, Effective, Efficient pupil transportation. All VUSD buses are equipped with a Child Safety Alarm System located at the interior rear of the school bus that requires the driver to manually contact the device before exiting the vehicle, thereby prompting the driver to inspect the entirety of the interior of the school bus before exiting.

All VUSD drivers shall ensure no children remain on the school bus by inspecting the entirety of the interior of the school bus at the last stop on each run. Upon returning to the Transportation Facility, drivers shall inspect the interior of the school bus to ensure no children remain on the school bus before exiting the school bus.

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When a child is found on the school bus at the end of a run or upon return to the Transportation Facility, the driver shall immediately notify dispatch and/or his/her supervisor. The school shall be notified immediately, and arrangements shall be made for the child to be transported either to school or home.

All school pupil activity bus (Charter Party Carrier) trips shall have a designated adult chaperone, other than the driver, to accompany pupils on a school pupil activity bus. VUSD requires that the designated adult chaperone accompanying pupils on a school pupil activity bus be named on the trip request. Prior to the trip, the designated adult chaperone shall sign and return to transportation an acknowledgement that they have received written instructions to follow to ensure a pupil is not left unattended on a school pupil activity bus.

G. Rules of Conduct aboard the School Bus (Calif. Adm. Code, Title 5, Section 14103)

It is the purpose of Visalia Unified School District Transportation Department to make school bus transportation a safe, pleasant experience for the students of our District. Conduct of students on the school buses is a serious matter. One misbehaving student can jeopardize the safety and welfare of many others by distracting the driver's attention away from traffic conditions.

Pupils transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of and responsible directly to the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway or road. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to authority of the bus driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require the pupil to leave the bus in route between home and school or other destinations.

Riding on a School Bus is a "PRIVILEGE" not a Right. All students who ride a school bus are subject to bus riding regulations. Safe transportation in a school bus requires cooperation and consideration of all people. Listed below are some of the unacceptable behaviors that could jeopardize student bus riding privileges:

- Refusing to obey driver
- Failure to remain seated
- Throwing objects in, out, or at the bus
- Disobeying bus monitor
- Eating, drinking, chewing gum on bus
- Lighting matches/lighters
- Bothering others, spitting, profanity
- Willfully destroying bus property
- Smoking on bus
- Hanging out of window
- Bringing animals on bus

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- Bringing skateboard on bus
- Fighting
- Failure to wear seat belt

Student Conduct Code/Behavior on the Bus

- 1st Offense: Warning to student and /or alternative consequences
- 2nd Offense: Not allowed to ride the bus for 1-3 days (or alternative consequences K-6 only), parent conference.
- 3rd Offense: Not allowed to ride the bus for 3-5 days, parent conference.
- 4th Offense: Not allowed to ride the bus for 5-7 days, parent conference.
- 5th Offense: Possible loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.

Note: Depending on the seriousness of the act, the student may lose bus privileges for the remainder of the school year on the first or succeeding offense. Also, decisions about bus discipline will be a collaborative effort between transportation and school administration.

H. Bus Emergency Procedures

Upon registration, the appropriate school site will provide to the parents or guardians of all pupils in pre-kindergarten through grade 6 who have not previously been transported in a school bus or school pupil activity bus, written information on school bus safety. In accordance with Education Code section 39831.5; all students through the 8th grade will receive safety instructions once each year during a scheduled bus evacuation drill.

Instruction on the use of passenger restraint systems, when a passenger restraint system is installed, shall include, but not be limited to all of the following:

- a. Proper fastening and release of the passenger restraint system;
- b. Acceptable placement of passenger restraint systems on pupils;
- c. Times at which the passenger restraint systems should be fastened and released; and
- d. Acceptable placement of the passenger restraint systems when not in use.

Prior to departure on a school activity trip, all students riding on a school bus or school pupil activity bus shall receive safety instruction which includes, but is not limited to, location of emergency exits, and location and use of emergency equipment. Instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit.

I. Foggy Day Procedures

TV Channel 24, 26 or 30, Plan A, or B, ~~or C~~ will be posted on the VUSD website <http://www.vusd.org> and Parent Link app or call (559) 730- 7594 for a recorded message.

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In accordance with the Vehicle Code Section 34501.6, Visalia Unified School District school buses shall not operate when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility to 200 feet or less.

In determining a foggy day transportation schedule, the following procedure shall be used: Foggy day transportation scheduling will be implemented when visibility is less than 300 feet in two or more of Visalia Unified School District's elementary school attendance areas.

Media will announce foggy day transportation scheduling for the Visalia Unified School District by indicating one of the plans listed below, using only the letter designation, such as Plan "A". Parents and students should be familiar with these plans. Parents are urged to use caution in determining how conditions affect their student's method of getting to and from school. Parents may opt to send pre-kindergarten -12th grade students after the fog has lifted, causing them to be late to school. These students will not be penalized for being tardy or absent if an excuse is provided in writing or by telephone.

PLAN "A" - WHEN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE, IT WILL INDICATE:

1. Bus transportation will be delayed by two (2) hours.
2. Classes will start on regular schedule.
3. Changes, if necessary, will be announced at approximately 8:30 AM.

PLAN "B" -WHEN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE, IT WILL INDICATE:

1. All morning bus routes to school will be canceled.
2. Classes will start on the regular schedule.
3. Buses will be dispatched on all "school-to-home" routes on the regular day schedule.

J. Inclement Weather Procedures

School buses, charter buses and district vehicles SHALL NOT operate when atmospheric conditions (fog, wind, rain, etc.) reduce visibility to 200 feet or less. When the V.U.S.D. transportation department determines that visibility may be reduced to less than 200 feet, the trip will be canceled.

While on the activity or athletic event, the driver is to continually monitor the weather conditions. When visibility becomes reduced, the driver shall communicate with their supervisor/coach/ teacher on the status of weather conditions. If the driver determines (after conferring with their supervisor) an earlier return is required, the coach or teacher will be notified of the revised time.

If at any time while in route the visibility is reduced to 200 feet or less, the driver shall find the nearest available lighted area so as to pull the bus or vehicle off the roadway and away from traffic. Drivers SHALL NOT stop on the shoulder of any highway under these conditions except for an emergency.

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K. Rules of the Road for Parents

A reminder for all parents and guardians -the speed limit, when approaching and passing by a school building or school grounds, while children are going to or leaving the school either during school hours or during the noon recess is 25 miles per hour.

The Amber Warning Light System and the Flashing Red Light Signal System are used by school buses to protect children while entering or exiting the school bus. When the Amber Warning Lights are flashing it means caution, get ready to stop. When the Red Warning Lights are flashing it means stop, students will be loading or unloading. It is against the law for the driver of any motor vehicle to pass a school bus with the Red Warning Lights flashing on an undivided highway. The Transportation Department urges everyone to use caution when driving in school zones and bus pick-up and drop-off locations.

This Safety Plan is effective January 1, 1998. It may be subject to revisions based on legislative changes and/or Board Policy amendments and/or additions. Any revisions will be sent by District mail or E-mail to each school site to take the place of the current plan in use.

Revised: September 2023