

Transportation Safety Plan



SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 14, 2008

Education Code Overview

California Education Code 39831.3

The superintendent of a school district that provides transportation to or from a school or a 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:

- Determining if pupils require escort pursuant to Section 22112 (3) of the Vehicle Code.
- Procedures for all pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, to follow as they board and exit the appropriate schoolbus at each pupil's schoolbus stop.
- Nothing in this paragraph requires the services of an onboard schoolbus monitor, in addition to the driver, to carry out the purposes of this paragraph.
- Boarding and exiting a schoolbus at a school or other trip destination.
- A current copy of a plan 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.

Special points of interest:

- WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RIDE THE BUS?
- WHO MUST BE ESCORTED?
- WHAT TRAINING IS REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS?
- HOW CAN ONE LOSE BUS PRIVILEGES?
- WHAT IS THE DANGER ZONE?
- WHAT REGULATIONS ARE THERE FOR TRANSPORTING STUDENTS NOT IN A SCHOOLBUS?

Who is Eligible to Ride The School Bus?

SMJUHSD offers transportation to students who live over three and a half miles from the school site. The walk distance to school bus stops is three and a half miles. Students identification cards serve as their bus pass and will show what stop the student is eligible to use. Students will not be allowed to enter a bus without a bus pass.



Bus drivers are required by law to load and discharge students only at authorized stops as listed on scheduled home to school lists or trip destinations. Please do not ask or expect a driver to stop at a location other than the student's assigned bus stop.

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Transportation Safety Plan

California Education Code 39831.5.

- All pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, in public or private school who are transported in a schoolbus or school pupil activity bus shall receive instruction in schoolbus emergency procedures and passenger safety. The county superintendent of schools, superintendent of the school district, or owner/operator of a private school, as applicable, shall ensure that the instruction is provided as follows:
- Upon registration, the parents or guardians of all pupils not previously transported in a schoolbus or school pupil activity bus and who are in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, shall be provided with written information on schoolbus safety.
- At least once in each school year, all pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, who receive home-to-school transportation shall receive safety instruction that includes, but is not limited to, proper loading and unloading procedures, including escorting by the driver, how to safely cross the street, highway, or private road, instruction on the use of passenger restraint systems, proper passenger conduct, bus evacuation, and location of emergency equipment. Instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit. As part of the instruction, pupils shall evacuate the schoolbus through emergency exit doors.
- 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:
 - Proper fastening and release of the passenger restraint system.
 - Acceptable placement of passenger restraint systems on pupils.
 - Times at which the passenger restraint systems should be fastened and released.
 - Acceptable placement of the passenger restraint systems when not in use.
- Prior to departure on a school activity trip, all pupils riding on a schoolbus or school pupil activity bus shall receive safety instruction that 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.

What Safety Training is Required for SMJUHSD Bus Riders?

- All SMJUHSD students will receive training on the use of passenger restraint systems on a yearly basis if the vehicle is so equipped.
- All Students who will be transported on a school activity trip shall receive safety instruction prior to departure including but not limited to , the location of emergency exits and emergency equipment. This will be documented on the field trip bus request.

California Education Code 14103—Authority of Driver

Pupils transported in a school bus or in a school pupil activity 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 the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus enroute between home and school or other destinations.

Bus Riding is a Privilege - Do Not Lose Your Privilege

Riding a school bus is a privilege to qualified students of Santa Maria Joint Union High School District. Therefore, it is important that all students are aware of the bus riding rules so they may keep their bus riding privilege. The following violations will result in an administrative referral which can lead to possible suspension, expulsion and contact with law enforcement: fighting or provoking a fight, intimidation, stealing, possessing and/or use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco, possessing and/or use of any weapon, destroying or defacing property, sexually harassing other students, opening an emergency exit at an inappropriate time, or any action that would jeopardize the safety of anyone on the bus.

Vehicle Code 22112—Loading and Unloading Students

- (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 lights 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:
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 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.

General Provisions

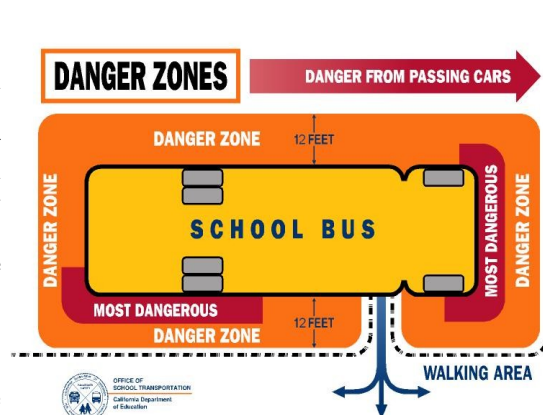
LOADING AND UNLOADING OF STUDENTS

- Pupils shall arrive at the bus stop approximately five minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time of the bus. In order to remain on schedule, the driver cannot wait at any stop beyond the scheduled pick up time.
- Pupils shall maintain appropriate conduct at the bus stop, similar to, classroom behavior. Horseplay is not permitted at the bus stop. Respect other peoples property.
- Pupils shall 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.
- After the door opens, pupils shall proceed in orderly manner, no shoving or scuffling while boarding or waiting for the bus.
- Pupils shall remain seated at all times until the bus stops, and the door of the bus is opened.
- Pupils shall maintain appropriate conduct while on the bus, following posted rules. Horseplay is not permitted at the bus stop.
- Pupils are not allowed to loiter around the bus. After exiting the bus, pupils are to go directly to their destination.
- The law requires that any school pupil, pre kindergarten through eighth grade, who must cross the street on which the bus is parked, be given an escort crossing by the driver. High school students needing to cross the street will follow the direction of the bus driver, students shall never cross behind the bus.

DANGER ZONE AROUND THE BUS

The area directly around the school bus is known as the DANGER ZONE. Students need to understand that they must stay out of that area. After leaving the bus, students must walk away from the bus and not return. If they drop or lose belongings, they must make eye contact with the driver and wait for help. Students must never go under the bus or touch the wheels. The driver is trained to watch for any activity around the bus before putting it into motion, however there are blind spots, stay out of the DANGER ZONES.

The danger zone is created because of the size of the bus and the obstruction of vision it creates. The three most dangerous areas around the bus are directly in front of the bus and near the rear tires and back of the bus on the passenger loading side. Students should never be in these areas near the bus.



SAFE BUS OPERATIONS

California mandates the Governing Board of any district that provides student transportation to adopt procedures that limit bus operations when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility, as described below, and that give drivers of student activity buses discretionary authority to discontinue operation when it is unsafe.

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 shall have the authority to discontinue bus operations whenever they determine that it would be unsafe to continue operation because of reduced visibility. (Vehicle Code 34501.6)

OTHER TRANSPORTATION

Students, Parents and staff may be transported in vehicles other than school busses. Drivers shall possess a valid California Drivers License appropriate for the vehicle being operated. Drivers Shall obey all traffic laws. Drivers must have on file a copy of an H-6, insurance card and drivers license. All drivers must be on the Districts approved drivers list. All occupants shall wear seat belts at all times. There is no eating, drinking or smoking in the vehicle.