

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Authority

Students transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus. The driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the students while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway, or road. (Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 14103)

Whenever he/she determines that it is unsafe to continue operating the bus, the school bus driver shall pull off the road at the first safe place and wait until it is safe to proceed.

(cf. 3543 - Transportation Safety and Emergencies)
(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

Qualifications and Training

All school bus drivers employed by the district for the transportation of students shall possess, at a minimum:

1. A valid license for the appropriate class of vehicle, issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles. (Vehicle Code 12517)
2. Certified completion of the first aid test given by the California Highway Patrol, or a current first aid certificate issued by the American Red Cross or by an organization whose first aid training program is at least equivalent, as determined by the Emergency Medical Services Authority. (Vehicle Code 12522)
3. A current medical certificate as required by law. (Vehicle Code 12517.2)
4. A California special driver certificate valid for driving a school bus. (Vehicle Code 12517)

All school bus drivers shall receive training as mandated by law. They also shall be familiar with and adhere to district policies and regulations relating to student transportation.

School bus drivers shall receive instruction in the proper securement of mobile seating devices in the bus. (Education Code 56221)

(cf. 3541.2 - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)

School bus drivers shall be subject to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with Board policy and the requirements of federal law.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (continued)

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

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Department of Motor Vehicles within five days whenever any school bus driver is dismissed for a cause related to student transportation safety, or whenever a driver so dismissed has been reinstated. (Vehicle Code 1808.8)

Responsibilities

The school bus driver's major responsibility is to safely transport students to and from school and school activities.

Except in an emergency, drivers shall not require any student to leave the bus en route between home and school or other destinations.

Drivers shall stop to load or unload students only at a school bus stop designated by the Superintendent or designee or authorized by the Superintendent or designee for school activity trips. (Vehicle Code 22112)

When students need to cross a highway or private road where the bus is stopped and traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or official traffic control signal, the driver shall: (Vehicle Code 22112)

1. Check for approaching traffic in all directions; when it is safe, activate the flashing red light signal system and the stop signal arm, if supplied.
2. Before opening the door, ensure that the flashing red signal lights and stop signal arm are activated and that it is safe to exit the bus.
3. Escort all students in grades pre-kindergarten through eight across the highway or private road, using an approved hand-held "STOP" sign while so doing.
4. Require all students to walk in front of the bus as they cross the road or highway.
5. Ensure that all students who need to cross the road or highway have crossed safely and that all other unloaded students are a safe distance from the bus before setting the bus in motion.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (continued)

Bus drivers shall operate red and amber bus lights and signal arms in accordance with law. The Superintendent or designee shall notify drivers whenever the district designates a stop that presents unique traffic hazards meriting use of the flashing red lights even when no students are crossing the roadway. Such stops shall be so designated only with the approval of local traffic engineering authorities.

School bus drivers shall report to the supervisor on the following:

1. Recurring and serious student misbehavior.
2. Parental and student complaints.
3. All accidents involving students or school vehicles.
4. All traffic violations which endanger students.
5. Consistently late school dismissals which cause transportation delays. (Such occurrences must also be brought to the attention of the school principal.)
6. Overload runs.

Drivers shall report all school bus accidents immediately to the California Highway Patrol, the district, and the driver's employer (if other than district). (Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 1219)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

39833 Operating bus in violation of order or regulation or without operator's qualification

40080-40090.5 Specialized vehicle driver training courses

56221 Adoption of policies

VEHICLE CODE

1808.8 Dismissal for safety-related cause

2570-2575 Transportation of school pupils

12517 School bus and pupil activity bus driver qualifications; certificates; fees

12517.2 Medical report; physical examination

12522 First aid examination for school bus driver

13376 Driver certificates; revocation or suspension; sex offense prosecution

22112 School bus signal

25257 School bus; flashing light signal system

25257.2 School bus used for transportation of developmentally disabled person

34501.6 School buses; reduced visibility

34508.5 Investigation of accidents

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

14103 Authority of the driver

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

1202 General provisions

1219 School bus regulations

1227 School bus stops

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 49

571.222 Federal motor vehicle safety standard # 222