

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 they determine that it is unsafe to continue operating the bus, school bus drivers may pull off the road at the first safe place and wait until it is safe to proceed.

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

Qualifications and Training

All school bus drivers employed by the District or a contractor for 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 12804)
4. A California special driver certificate valid for driving a schoolbus. (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.

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)

Duties

School bus 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)

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (continued)

Drivers shall not require any student to leave the bus in route between home and school or other destinations. (Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 14103)

Bus drivers shall operate red and amber bus lights and signal arms, if so equipped, in accordance with law.

Drivers shall stop to load or unload students only at a schoolbus 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:

1. Activate the amber warning lights (if so equipped) 200' before the bus stop.
2. Check for approaching traffic in all directions; when it is safe, activate the flashing red light signal system and the stop signal arm, if equipped.
3. Ensure that the flashing red signal lights and stop signal arm are activated and that it is safe to exit the bus before opening the door.
4. Escort all students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve across the highway or private road, using an approved hand-held "STOP" sign while so doing.
5. Require all students to walk in front of the bus as they cross the road or highway.
6. 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. (Vehicle Code 22112)

School bus drivers shall report to the transportation 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.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (continued)

5. Consistently late school dismissals which cause transportation delays.
6. Overload runs.
7. Mechanical or other problems regarding buses or equipment.

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*

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*

12522 *First aid examination for schoolbus driver*

12804 *Examination and driving test*

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*

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*