

PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN

Per section 39831.3 of the California Education Code

Pursuant to California Education Code 39831.3, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is providing the following plan for school transportation procedures:

The School Board Policy for school transportation is, “To provide transportation for eligible students in accordance with state and federal law. Transportation services shall depend upon student needs and the distance from the student’s home to school. The Board believes home-to-school transportation is a privilege, not a right.”

The Transportation Department shall determine if a child requires an escort to or from the bus by:

1. conversation from the driver to the student
2. communications from the school office or teacher to the Transportation Department Office or bus driver
3. observation from the bus driver
4. information from routing software

PROCEDURES

ESCORT TO THE BUS

- The student will be given instructions to wait at an area designated by the driver.
- 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 exit the bus.
- The driver will exit the bus and walk approximately 12 feet in front of the bus before turning to enter the roadway and instruct the student to “wait”.
- The driver will walk to the center of the street and assure all traffic is stopped before verbally instructing the student to walk between the bus and the driver to the bus.
- The driver shall follow the last student to the bus and make sure all students are seated.

ESCORT FROM THE BUS

- The student crossing the street will be instructed to come to the front of the bus and wait for further instruction.
- 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 exit the bus.
- The driver will instruct the students to follow out of the bus and to “wait” twelve (12) feet at the right front corner of the bus. The students shall not move towards the street until the driver instructs them to do so.
- The driver will stop and check for traffic and then proceed to the center of the roadway.
- The driver will assure all traffic is stopped and instruct students to cross when safe.

BOARDING THE BUS

- Students should be at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.
- Students should learn the correct route number for the route they are riding on to school or home. Students should look for that sign, not the bus number or the bus driver. The signs will remain the same; buses and drivers may change.
- Students will not run towards the bus when the bus is approaching.
- Students will wait at least twelve (12) feet back from the street or roadway.
- Students will wait in a line forming away from the street.
- Students will wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and will not approach the bus until the front door is opened.
- Students will walk to the nearest available seat and be seated or be directed to a seat by the driver of the bus.
- Students shall talk quietly, not stand up nor turn around in the seat, respect others and their property as well as the property of the school bus. There is no eating, drinking or smoking/chewing allowed while on the bus by students or adults. Students shall obey all directions from safety from the driver.

EXITING THE BUS

- Students will remain seated until the bus stops and the bus door is opened. The bus is not considered stopped until the door opens. Students shall not stand on the bus while the bus is in motion.
- Students will exit the bus one row at a time beginning with the front of the bus.
- Students will use the handrail at the door and walk down each step to the ground.
- Students should walk away from the bus after exiting and not touch or lean against the bus.
- Students shall not cross the street the bus is parked upon without assistance from the driver. Students shall notify the driver if they need to cross the street.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Transportation Department will route special needs buses to pick and drop off on the right side only. Therefore, no student will have to be escorted across the street. In the event an unforeseen circumstance should require a student to be escorted across the street, the driver shall comply with provisions of Vehicle Code 22112 (a), (b), (c), (d).

The red crossover light shall be activated at all times students are loading or unloading the bus except:

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

All special needs students and their parents/guardians will be given verbal and written instructions pertaining to the location of the student's bus stop, bus rules, time of pick-up, time or return, loading and unloading procedures.

Parents/guardians shall be required to provide pertinent information to the transportation department concerning student's medical and physical condition. This information shall be handled as confidential under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District Transportation drivers shall receive training to safely transport each student. This training shall include, although IS not limited to, first aid procedures and the operation of any and all necessary specialized equipment (wheelchairs, lifts, tie-downs, vests, etc.). [13 CCR 1229, PL 94-143]

RED CROSSOVER LIGHTS ON SCHOOL BUSES

Pursuant to amended Section 22112 of the Vehicle Code pertaining to school buses, whereas "The driver shall operate the flashing red signal and stop signal arm, as required on the school bus, at all times when the school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils."

The Pajaro Valley Unified School District policy shall exempt the following bus stops from the use of amber or red lights [as per Section 22112 (e)].

- All school loading and unloading zones
- All stops along multi-lane highways (two or more lanes in each direction)
- All stops along a state highway with posted speed limits of 55 MPH or over where the school bus is completely off the main traveled portion of the highway.

REDUCED VISIBILITY

Pursuant to Section 34501.6 of the Vehicle Code The governing board of a local educational agency that provides transportation of pupils shall adopt procedures that limit the operation of schoolbuses when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to 200 feet or less during regular home-to-school transportation service. Operational policies for school activity trips shall give schoolbus drivers discretionary authority to discontinue operation if the driver determines that it is unsafe to continue operation because of reduced visibility.

- When visibility is reduced to 200 feet or less the driver will stop in a safe place, turn off all lights, and notify dispatch.

9/30/2009