

## 2019-2020 School Year

### Student Transportation Information

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August 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

This information is designed to help you assist our staff to provide safe, efficient, and more enjoyable student transportation.

The drivers of our buses are professionally trained individuals with a high standard of excellence. They possess technical skills, knowledge of laws and regulations, policies, and first aid/CPR certified. Driver training is ongoing in regard to the knowledge, skills, and abilities for the safe operation of a school bus. While the school bus driver is primarily responsible for the students' safety, students also have responsibilities in adhering to bus and student safety procedures.

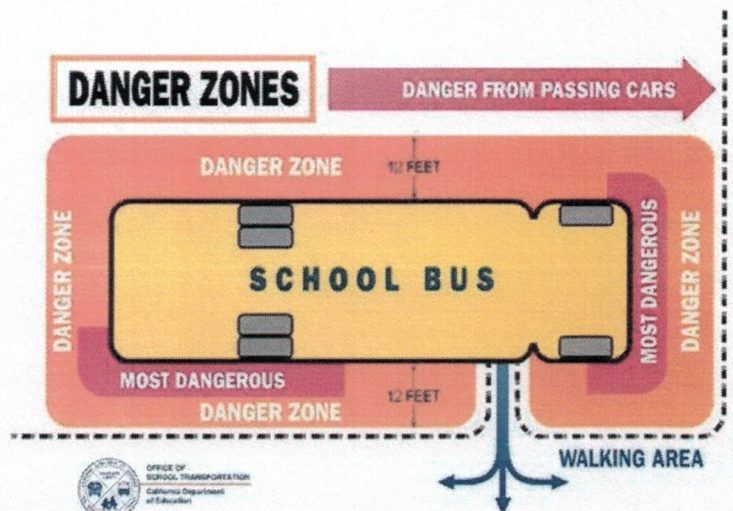
The safety rules explained in this letter are required by law, as referenced in Coast Unified School District's Transportation Safety Plan.

Included is a list of the District's school bus stops. One will be the designated stop your student will use. Please indicate on the form provided your student's information and designated stop that will be used by your student.

#### **The "Danger Zone"**

The safety of your student is our priority. Most injuries and deaths involving school buses occur OUTSIDE of the bus and inside the "DANGER ZONE."

The "Danger Zone" is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver (twelve feet in front of the bus where the driver may be too high to see a child, twelve feet on either side of the bus where a child may be in the driver's blind spot, and the area behind the school bus).





Students should never reach under the bus to get something they have dropped! Always get help from the driver. NEVER TOUCH PARTS OF THE BUS EXTERIOR! Do not try to hang from the bus exterior, bus bumper, or race the school bus.

### **Safety Rules for Loading Students**

**Be on-time to your designated bus stop.** Give yourself plenty of time to safely *walk* to the bus stop. Never run to/from the bus stop. We ask all students to arrive at the bus stop not more than 5 MINUTES before the bus is scheduled to arrive (noted on the District Bus Stop Schedule). Wait for the bus in a safe place; clear of traffic. Avoid horseplay and respect the privacy and property of others while waiting for the bus. Do not hide in bushes, behind trees, or behind cars. You should be visible to the bus driver. Form an orderly line facing the direction from which the bus will approach the stop. The driver of the bus must stop the bus a minimum of twelve (12) feet away from the closest student therefore it is imperative that you **DO NOT MOVE TOWARD BUS UNTIL THE SCHOOL BUS IS COMPLETELY STOPPED AND THE DOOR IS OPENED.** When entering the bus, use the handrail while climbing the steps and proceed directly to a seat. If you arrive late to your bus stop and need to cross the street...**DO NOT CROSS THE STREET!** Wait for the bus driver to secure the bus, turn-on the flashing Red-Lights, come out of the bus with a STOP sign and when safe to do so, escort you across the street in front of the bus to load. This is the law. Never take the chance and cross yourself and NEVER cross behind the school bus. Our goal is safety!

### **Safety Rules for Riding the School Bus**

The law states, "Pupils transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus. The driver of the bus 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 refusals to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation." Remember, the driver has the safety of all students in mind. It is important to always listen and cooperate with your driver. Learn and obey the standard School Bus Rules that are posted inside the bus. Parents can be very helpful by assisting their student(s) in learning these rules and supporting the bus driver in adhering to them.

Take your seat, face forward, feet on the floor and remain seated at all times when the bus is in motion. Do not throw objects out the window. Keep your head, arms, and feet inside the bus at all times. Be respectful of the rights of everyone on the bus by not using profanity or using profane gestures. Talk quietly with fellow students on an appropriate topic. Keep your hands to yourself and off property that does not belong to you (i.e. backpacks, bags, personal items). Do not throw items in the bus or litter. Do not vandalize any part of the bus. Skateboards or similar items must be secured or driver may place inside bus luggage compartment. Items prohibited on the bus include, but are not limited to, all glass, balloons, or animals (including insects). Do not allow large objects to obstruct the aisles or emergency exits. Do not place any items (i.e. backpacks, bags, books) on the rear emergency exit shelf.



**"DON'T LOSE YOUR RIDING PRIVILEGE!"  
FOLLOW THESE RULES**

**REMEMBER: ALL SCHOOL POLICIES APPLY WHILE ON THE SCHOOL BUS**

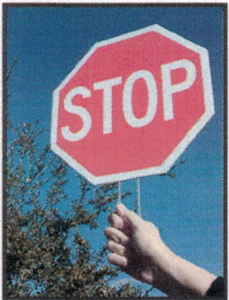
1. **COOPERATE** WITH THE DRIVER.
2. BUS DRIVER IS **AUTHORIZED** TO ASSIGN SEATS.
3. **BE COURTEOUS**-USE NO PROFANE LANGUAGE.
4. **FOOD, DRINKS, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS ARE PROHIBITED. THIS INCLUDES SUNFLOWER SEEDS**
5. USE OF CELL PHONES PERMITTED. **SUBJECT TO CONFISCATION**
6. EARPHONES MAY BE USED-**SUBJECT TO CONFISCATION**
7. **NO** BALLOONS. SKATEBOARDS **MUST** BE HELD
8. **NO ANIMALS** OF ANY KIND
9. **REMAIN SEATED AT ALL TIMES.** ASK DRIVER PERMISSION TO MOVE

**KEEP HEAD, HANDS AND FEET INSIDE THE BUS AT ALL TIMES**

Buses are equipped with video surveillance and will be reviewed when necessary by District Administration.

**Safety Rules for Unloading**

**For your safety, remain seated until the bus is completely stopped and the door is open.** Exit the bus in an orderly manner; no pushing or shoving. Please be patient and wait your turn to stand and exit the bus. When exiting the bus, use the handrails. Do not jump from the bus. After exiting, move completely away from the bus and out of the danger zone (the outside area within twelve (12) feet from the bus). Never try to retrieve anything from under the school bus without the driver's permission and assistance. Do not chase the bus after it has departed from the bus stop.



**Red-Light Crossing (Driver-escorted) stops:** On a highway or private road, the law and Coast Unified School District Policy mandates that the driver **MUST** escort all pupils across the roadway. Under the protection of flashing red lights, the driver shall carry a hand-held stop sign while escorting students. For safety, the student(s) **MUST** wait for the driver to tell them to cross. At this time, the student must walk between the bus driver and the front of the bus to the opposite side of the roadway. Failure to follow these procedures while crossing may result in a loss of school bus riding privileges.

**Emergency Situations**

A school bus is actually safer to ride in than the family car-but accidents can still happen.

The District conducts annual drills to practice safe school bus evacuations. During these practice drills, you will be shown where emergency equipment is located (i.e. first aid kit, fire extinguisher) and how to use them. You will be shown how to open Emergency Exits and the procedure for safely exiting through them. You will have



the opportunity to practice exiting the bus through a side Emergency Exit. It is very important to take these evacuation drills seriously.

If there is an accident: Stop talking. Stay calm and listen to your driver's instructions. DO NOT TOUCH EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT (i.e. first aid kit, fire extinguisher) unless told to do so by your bus driver. It is very important to be quiet in order to hear instructions.

The driver may tell you to evacuate. You may have to evacuate if there is a bus fire (or danger of one) or if the bus is in an unsafe location. Your bus driver will instruct you.

#### EVACUATING THE BUS:

1. Do not crowd the aisle
2. Take only what you have on. Leave backpacks, purses, or other personal items on the bus-DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CARRY THEM OFF THE BUS! Keep your hands free from carrying anything off the bus.
3. Keep moving towards the exit the bus driver instructed you to evacuate from. NEVER JUMP OUT A WINDOW OR LEAVE FROM ANY OTHER EXIT UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY YOUR BUS DRIVER.
4. Wrap all loose clothing around you to prevent getting caught on any part of the bus. Make sure jackets, sweaters, or sweatshirts are zipped-up.
5. Follow evacuation procedures learned during the school district's annual bus evacuation drills.

Please remember that riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. If you choose to *NOT* follow the school bus rules, you may lose your bus riding privileges.

Thank you for your support and assistance in our endeavor to provide continued safe and enjoyable transportation for your children. If you have any questions concerning the District's transportation, please call the Transportation Office at 927-8567



Don Adams  
Director of Maintenance, Operations, Transportation