



# **Transportation Safety Plan**

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## Introduction

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The Cypress School District will provide transportation for students under provisions of state law, regulations, and Board policy. It is the intent of the Cypress School District to use reasonable care and exercise appropriate safety measures in all aspects of student transportation.

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## Education Code

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Pursuant to Education Code Section 39831.3 and Vehicle Code Section 22112, this Transportation Safety Plan must be kept on file at all school sites served by the Transportation department as well as at the Transportation department. This plan will be revised as needed and must be produced when requested by the California Highway Patrol.

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## Transportation Safety Plan

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1. Only authorized bus riders are permitted to ride the bus. Riders will be required to get on and off at his/her designated stop or other trip destination.
2. Cypress School District utilizes bus passes for all students. These bus passes identify the student and his/her bus stop. All students must have a bus pass in order to ride the bus.
3. The bus driver will make every effort to arrive at the bus stop at the scheduled time for pick-up and drop-off. If the bus arrives early, the driver will wait until the scheduled time before departing. In order to remain on schedule, the driver cannot wait at any stop beyond the scheduled pick-up or drop-off time.
4. The bus driver has the authority to separate students and to assign students to specific seats as deemed necessary.
5. Bus drivers are required by law to load and discharge passengers only at authorized stops as listed on scheduled home-to-school or school-to-home routes. If a student is hesitant or reluctant to get off the bus at his or her stop, the student will not be forced to get off and will be returned to school. **Please do not ask or expect a driver to stop at a location other than your student's assigned bus stop.**
6. Many students who qualify for transportation through an individualized education plan (IEP), administrative transfer, McKinney Vento, and all transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students must be met by a parent or designee. When authorized parties are not available to meet the student as required, the bus driver will complete the route and take the student back to their home school.
7. Students needing to cross the street on which the bus is stopped shall be provided escort service per Section 22112 CVC.
  - a. The crossing light system (Ambers and Reds) shall be activated, as required, when the bus is stopped to load and unload students if the vehicle is parked on a highway or private road, unless under the direction of a traffic officer.
  - b. The lights **DO NOT** allow students to cross the roadway or highway unless the driver has exited the school bus and given the student direction that it is safe to cross. Students are to remain on the roadside until directed by the driver. Students are never to cross the roadway or highway behind the bus unless crossing at an official traffic-controlled signal.

- c. Each student being escorted across the street is required to cross under authority of the driver after exiting and crossing in front of the bus.
8. In order to ensure the continued high level of safety provided to our students and expected by the public, the Transportation department will continue to educate school bus drivers, students, and the public about the laws and dangers associated with loading and unloading students.
9. Each student on a school bus must behave in a satisfactory manner in order for the driver to remain alert to the many hazards of driving. The safety of all students is of primary importance; a student who behaves in an unsatisfactory manner may be denied transportation. A student's conduct at school bus loading zones and stops must be satisfactory to allow for the safe loading and unloading at these locations. Parent reinforcement of these regulations will help considerably in maintaining a high level of safety and a low level of disciplinary problems. Parents may be responsible for any damage to vehicles or property caused directly by their child(ren).
10. In compliance with SB 1072 and Education Code 39831.3 (Child Safety Alert System), (1) The bus driver shall inspect the entirety of the interior of the bus for students before exiting the bus. The driver shall turn the ignition to the off position and remove the key. The driver shall place the key in his/her possession prior to checking for students as he/she walks to the rear of the bus. (2) The driver shall push the Child Check Mate System button at the rear of the bus and hold in for 3 seconds to disengage the system. (3) The driver shall continue to check the interior of the bus for students as he/she walks to the front of the bus before exiting.
11. Foggy Day/Reduced Visibility, Vehicle Code 34501.6 School bus drivers have the discretionary authority to discontinue home-to-school, or any activity trip if conditions become unsafe when visibility is reduced to 200 feet or less. If, in the opinion of the bus driver, conditions are so hazardous that the safe operation of the bus is not possible, the driver shall pull off the roadway and if possible, onto the shoulder of the road.
12. California Vehicle Code Section 22112 requires a school bus driver to activate the red lights at all times when a school bus is stopped to load and unload students. This includes locations where traffic is controlled by an official traffic signal. However, Section 22112 does not permit a school bus driver to activate the red lights at the following locations:
- Any place where traffic is controlled by a traffic officer.
  - School bus loading zones on or adjacent to school grounds or during an activity trip if the school bus is lawfully parked.
  - Where the school bus is disabled due to mechanical breakdown.
  - Where students require assistance to board or leave the school bus.
  - Where the roadway surface on which the bus is stopped is partially or completely covered by snow or ice.
  - On a state highway with a posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour or higher where the school bus is completely off the main traveled portion of the highway.
  - Any location determined by the school district, with approval of the CHP, to present a traffic or safety hazard.

13. **School Bus Danger Zone** School buses are large commercial vehicles and are difficult to see around because of their size; therefore, they create blind spots where children may be present. Understanding the 12-foot danger zone area around the bus helps keep our children safe. Students should never go under or in front of the bus. Students should store items inside a backpack where they are less likely to be dropped under the bus. Always slow your vehicle when you are around a school bus and stop when the red lights are flashing. Flashing amber lights on the school bus is a warning to slow down and stop for the subsequent red lights flashing signal system on the school bus.

