Eureka City Schools
Transportation Safety Plan

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Transportation Safety Plan

Students who register, and qualify, for bus transportation to and from school shall be given a copy of this plan during the first week of school. Students that register for bus transportation after the school year begins, shall be given a copy of this plan upon approval of their registration for the bus. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified of the approval or denial of the request for transportation by the transportation department. The department will confirm the student's bus stop location and approximate pick up and drop off times.

All Parents/Guardians must complete and submit a "Request for School Transportation" form, to the Transportation Department to request bussing for their student. Students will only be allowed to ride the school bus after the transportation department receives the form and confirms the student is eligible for bussing. Families will know they are eligible for bussing when the transportation department contacts them by phone.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

What are the District's requirements for transportation?
The Eureka City School District provides limited school bus transportation to students who reside within the attendance zone of the school they are attending and outside of the non-transport zones that have been established by the District Administration and approved by the District Governing Board. The non-transport zones are located on the District Web page under School Transportation. If you are unsure if you qualify for bussing, you may call 441-2504.

**** To be eligible for transportation, a student must attend their school of residence and live outside of the non-transport zone, unless they have been placed in the school they are attending by the District..***

In remote areas approved bus stops locations may be limited, students will be required to get to the bus stop nearest their home if their transportation is approved.

The Transportation Department shall use the Board approved non-transport zones when establishing school bus routes and schedules. Exceptions may be allowed if the district determines that lack of transportation would constitute an undue hardship or safety concern.

Parents may complete and submit a "Transportation Hardship Request" form if they believe the lack of school transportation creates an undue hardship for them. An application for hardship transportation must be sent to the Director of Transportation. The Director will review the hardship request and make recommendations to the Superintendent or designee as to whether the hardship request should be granted or denied. Parents/guardians shall have the right to appeal this decision. See the "Frequently Asked Questions" at the end of this document for appeal procedures. An application for hardship status may be denied if it is determined that granting the hardship would result in increased costs to the district.

These policies do not pertain to students covered by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) where home to school transportation as a related service is included in the IEP.

SCHOOL BUS STOPS

School Bus routes and bus stops are established by the Director of Transportation. The bus stops are set to meet the legal requirements for school bus stops, as well as to ensure that buses are routed in a cost efficient manner. To the extent possible, school bus stops shall be in areas that offer traffic a clear view of the students, and meet safety criteria concerning road speed and traffic controls at school bus stop locations.

Whenever possible, school bus stops are established so students do not have to cross the roadway on which the bus is parked, while the bus is at the stop. If a school bus travels in both directions on the same road, students will be required to depart the bus on the side of the road on which they live.

The school bus driver shall escort all students that must cross the roadway on which the bus unloads, if the students must cross the roadway to get home. Any student that must cross the roadway after disembarking the school bus, shall notify the bus driver prior to exiting the bus. Students crossing the roadway upon which the bus is unloading without an escort by the bus driver, may be subject to the loss of transportation privileges.

In accordance with California Vehicle Code 22112 the driver of a school bus will activate an approved amber warning light system two hundred feet prior to the school bus stop. “Upon reaching the bus stop, the driver shall deactivate the amber warning lights, and activate the flashing red signal light system and stop arm (if the bus is so equipped) at all times that the bus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading students” as required by VC22112. In general, School buses will stop only at those stops that are authorized by the Superintendent or their designee. **Students are to disembark the bus only at their regular, designated stop, unless the driver has received written notice from the parent/guardian authorizing the student to get off at another stop.**

Our bus drivers strive to maintain a set schedule. Occasionally student loads, weather conditions, roadwork, and bus breakdowns may cause a change in the bus times. Because of these possible time variations, we advise students, as well as the parents who meet their students, to be at the designated bus stop at least five to ten minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive, and to remain at the stop unless they are sure they have missed the bus.

DROP OFF PROCEDURE

For your child's safety, we request that a parent /guardian or an authorized representative meet the bus for all students in grades TK-3. A bus driver will not *knowingly* let a child in grades TK-1 disembark from the bus without someone to meet them, they will continue along their route and will request the transportation dispatcher to attempt to make contact with the parent/guardian. If parental contact is not successful, the child shall be taken back to school. If there is no available school personnel to monitor the student at the school, the student will be taken to local law enforcement. Parent(s) guardian(s) will be responsible for their child’s transportation home in these cases.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Twenty-five million children in the United States ride a school bus to and from school each day. School buses are the safest way for students to get to and from school. However, each year some school-age children are injured in school-bus-related traffic accidents. The primary reasons that young children are most likely to be injured are:

· They rush to get on or off the bus,
· They act before they think and have little experience with vehicle traffic,
· They assume cars will stop for them when they are crossing a street,
· They do not always wait for the bus driver to escort them across the street.

Safe Riding & Emergency Procedures Training
All TK-6 grade students who normally ride the school bus to and from school shall receive instruction on the procedures to follow as they board and exit the school bus, safe riding procedures, safe crossover procedures, and emergency evacuation procedures. All students shall receive instruction in safe riding procedures, location and use of emergency exits and location of emergency equipment prior to riding a school bus on a field trip.

The School Bus Danger Zone
The danger zone exists on all sides of the bus. This danger zone is the area where it is difficult for the bus driver to see the children near the bus. This danger zone is the area where children are in the most danger of being injured by the bus. Children should:

✓ Stay at least twelve (12) feet away from the bus (or as far away as they can),
✓ Never walk behind the bus,
✓ Stay on the sidewalk at the right front of the bus,
✓ Wait for the school bus driver to escort them across the street before crossing.

Please teach your child to ask the driver for help if he/she drops something near the bus, or to leave the item where it falls until the bus has moved away from the area.
A backpack is a big help in keeping your child's loose items from falling on the ground.

Surveillance Cameras on the Bus
Our buses are equipped with Digital Surveillance Systems**.** By allowing your child to ride the bus, you understand and agree that surveillance may occur on the school bus at any time. **The digital recordings will only be allowed to be viewed by district personnel with a need to review them for the purpose of observing student behavior or safety while on the bus. Due to regulations pertaining to student privacy, parent(s)/guardian(s) are not allowed to view the surveillance recordings.**

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND SAFETY RULES

The District has implemented the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program. All students are expected to be **Safe, Respectful and Responsible** at all times at school and school related events, going to school, and returning home from school. In conjunction with the national ***Safe Routes to School Program***, Eureka City Schools has developed the following guidelines and expectations for students and families.

BUS RIDER SAFETY

Be Responsible

- Be at your stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Put backpacks in your lap or under the seat
- Use entrance and exit procedures
- Take all of your belongings

Use Respect

- Save food and drink for when your ride is complete.
- Treat the bus with respect.
- Follow driver directions.
- Show your driver respect.
- Treat other riders with respect
- Use a 0-2 voice level
- Respect other's clean air, save vaping and smoking for areas away from the bus stop

Stay Safe

- Walk to the bus stop with caution. Use safe pedestrian skills. Refer to your school's suggested walking route map and select the safest route to get to and from your child/ren's stop.
- Wait at your assigned stop and do not step into the road at any time.
- Wait for a red light escort if you need to cross the street
- Approach the bus when the door is open and the driver invites you in.
- Stay seated with your seatbelt buckled
- Keep hands and feet to self
- Keep all body parts inside of the bus

UNSATISFACTORY CONDUCT

Student safety depends on student behavior as well as how the driver performs his or her responsibilities. California Code Regulations Title. 5,§ 14103- Authority of the Driver states: (a) Pupils transported in a school bus or in a school pupil activity bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus, and the driver 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 refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus enroute between home and school or other destinations…" Eureka City School's Governing has adopted rules relating to student conduct on the bus.

Drivers use a variety of positive redirection strategies to support pupils prior to implementing consequences for breaking bus-riding rules. If misbehavior occurs while on the bus or going to and from the school bus stop and while waiting at the bus stop. Your child may lose their bus-riding privileges. Students who create a safety hazard or fail to obey the school bus rules will be subject to the following discipline procedures:

Student has not responded to redirection by the driver: The driver will complete a referral form asking the parent to partner with them to support appropriate bus behavior. The pupil must take the form home and have it signed by their parent/guardian and return it to the bus driver who may have a brief restorative conversation with the student. Additionally, the school may ask the student to complete a reteach of the appropriate bus behavior during the school day.

Repeated violations of the BUS expectations: If there are repeated violations of BUS expectations, the driver will complete a behavior referral form and the principal or designee of the school will contact the parent and have a conference to discuss strategies to support appropriate behavior on the bus. The student will have a reteach at the school site and may lose a privilege as a consequence of the behavior on the bus.

Extremely Serious Offense or Student is not responding to reteaching and interventions: The driver has the duty and right to keep students safe on the bus. Students who continue to demonstrate unsafe behavior can lose their riding privilege. If the student's behavior is extremely serious or unsafe the driver will complete a referral form indicating that the student is ineligible to ride the bus for up to 5 days depending on the severity of the violation. In very extreme circumstances, a student may lose their riding privilege for the remainder of the school year. The principal or designee will hold a conference with the parent.

Bus transportation is a privilege. Any serious offense (fighting, destruction of school property, etc.) or continuing misbehavior may lead to the immediate suspension of bus riding privileges. CA Code Regulations. 14103

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Be Safe

· **Look both ways.** Before crossing the street, children should be taught to look to their left, to their right, and to their left again to ensure it is safe to cross.

· **Use the crosswalk.** Children should always cross a street at a crosswalk. Motorists are not expecting pedestrians to cross mid-block or outside of a crosswalk.

· **Stop at the edge.** Teach children to be aware of 'edges', or locations where they may come into contact with cars, such as corners, driveways, and street crossings.

· **Be visible.** Children should make eye contact with drivers before approaching edges such as driveways, crossing the street, or walking in front of cars to ensure motorists see them.

Be Respectful

· **Be courteous of others.** Always obey school rules, traffic signs and signals and be aware of other users of the roadway, including bicyclists and motorists.

Be Responsible

· **Share out loud.** Read aloud to your child/ren the recommendations in the 'Be Safe' Section above a.
·**Model safe behavior.** As a parent/caregiver, being a role model for your child/ren is one of the best ways for them to learn how to be safe as they walk to and from school. Always teach by example! ·**I.D. your route.** Each school has a map with suggested walking routes. This map highlights the location of crosswalks, stoplights, and stop signs. It is recommended that you review this map to select a walking route to school and practice walking with your child/ren before they walk on their own. Maps are located on the district website

·**Form a 'Walking School Bus'.** Coordinate adult volunteers to pick up students at designated stops and walk to school together. Contact your school for more information.

ROLLING SAFETY FOR BIKES, BOARDS, SCOOTERS AND SKATES

Be Safe

· **Wear a helmet** when you bike, board, or skate. Teach your child/ren to wear and adjust his/her own helmet and make sure it is the proper size.

· Helmets for children under 18 are required by law. If your child needs a helmet please contact Making Headway or Humboldt County DHHS Public Health.



· **Be visible.** Bright clothing, lights, and reflective gear will help motorists see your child rolling to and from school.

· **Keep gear in good repair.** Make sure your child's bike and helmet are the correct size. Be sure the brakes work on their bikes, boards, scooters, and skates.

· **Two shoulder the load.** Teach your child/ren to carry books, lunch, school supplies in a backpack or on their bike rack in order to maintain balance and ride with both hands.

Be Respectful

· **Roll with respect.** Teach your child/ren to obey the traffic laws and school rules for rolling. Remember, bikes and boards always make way for walkers.

· **Form a "bike train."** Work with other parents and adult volunteers to create a schedule for riding to and from school together from your neighborhood.

· **Teach by example**. Children learn by example. Share with them the fun and excitement of getting around under their own power safely.

Be Responsible

· **Identify the route.** Ride or roll to school with your child to teach them the way you would like them to get to and from school. Practicing together is fun and will help make both of you more comfortable. Each school has a map with suggested routes. This map highlights the location of crosswalks, stoplights, and stop signs. It can help you plan the safest route.

· **Follow the law.** Your child/ren **must** wear a helmet, ride in the same direction as traffic and obey all traffic signs and signals.



· **Hop off.** Children arriving at school should walk across the crosswalk and always walk their bike, scooter or skateboard at school.

· **Lock up.** Children should lock their bikes in the rack for the entire day. For information on storing skateboards and scooters, check with the school office.

· **Form a "bike train."** Work with other parents and adult volunteers to create a schedule for riding to and from school together from your neighborhood.

· **Teach by example**. Children learn by example. Share with them the fun and excitement of getting around under their own power safely.

PARENT DRIVER SAFETY

Be Safe

· **Buckle up.** Secure everyone in your vehicle with seatbelts and make sure that children under 8 years old or under 4'9" tall are properly fit to a car seat or booster seat.*

· **Obey speed limits.** Drive slowly and carefully and use extra caution during arrival and dismissal. Obey the 25 mph school zone.

· **Talk to your kids, not on the phone.** It is better to enjoy a conversation with child/ren than to talk or text on a cell phone. Using a cell phone while driving is a dangerous distraction and it is against the law to text while driving in California.

· **Use caution when backing up.** You have limited visibility behind you and may not see a child.

·**Look out for school buses**. Children are often exiting and entering buses. Never pass a school bus from either direction if it has red lights flashing or their stop sign displayed.

Be Respectful

· **Use remote drop-offs**. A good way to avoid the traffic at school in the mornings and to get beneficial physical activity is to drop off your children a few blocks away from school and then walk with them the rest of the way- or let them walk in with friends.

· **Park in designated spaces.** Please park only where you are supposed to! The red zones mean no parking, do not park in red zones or blue zones, and do not block the path of other vehicles. White zones are for loading and unloading only. Do not leave your vehicle unattended in a white zone.

· **Leave Early.** Plan ahead to reduce stress and the urge to drive too fast.

· **Be courteous of other travelers.** Obey all the rules of the road and look out especially for bicyclists and pedestrians. Let's work together to get everyone to/from school safely.

· **Turn off your engine when you can.** Turn off your car while waiting and take a breath of fresh air! An idling car still emits harmful fumes that pollute the air and are dangerous to breathe in.

Be Responsible

· **Know the plan.** ***Please review each school's Arrival and Dismissal Map/Plan***. It is designed to help minimize congestion and confusion at the school during arrival/dismissal times and to help parents understand the safest and most efficient ways to drop off and pick up their children from school.

· **Form a carpool**. Carpooling is a great way to:

- Save on gas
- Help the environment
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Give yourself a break!

* To have a certified technician fit your child/ren to a car seat please contact Humboldt County Public Health at 707-268-2132.

More information on Safe Routes to School can be obtained at http://www.hcaog.net/documents/safe routes-school-whats-happening-humboldt

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do state laws require the district to provide home-to-school transportation? No. The state does not require home-to-school transportation be provided by the district. Federal regulations do, however, require the district to provide transportation for special needs students when their Individualized Education Program (IEP) requires them to be provided specialized transportation in order to allow them to access a free and appropriate public education.

What if I believe it is too dangerous for my child to walk to school?
District policies allow parent(s)/guardian(s) to apply for hardship transportation if a student lives in a non-transportation zone and has a condition that constitutes a **health or safety hazard** to the student. Parents must complete a *'Transportation Hardship Request'* form and send it to the Transportation Director for review. You can obtain the form from the school secretary, or on the web at http://www.eurekacityschools.org .

Who approves the Hardship Request?
The decision to approve or deny a Transportation Hardship Request shall be made by the Director of Transportation. If after reviewing the reasons for the request and taking the health and safety of the student into account, the Director of Transportation determines that transportation is warranted, the Transportation Hardship request will be approved and you will be notified by phone.

What if we disagree with the Transportation Director's determination?
Parents may appeal the decision not to approve a Transportation Hardship Request by the Transportation Director by sending a written letter to the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services to request a review of the Transportation Director's decision. The Assistant Superintendent of Business Services shall review the request and either agree or disagree with the Transportation Directors decision. If the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services disagrees with the Transportation Director's decision, he/she shall approve the Transportation Hardship Request and notify the Transportation Director and parent within 10 days of his/her decision.

Questions concerning any material in this booklet can be directed to
Tiffany Winter, Director of Operations, Transportation & Risk Management
(707) 441-2503