

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

Authority of School Bus Drivers

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, 14103)

(cf. 5131.1 - Bus Conduct)

School Bus Driver Qualifications and Training

All school bus drivers employed by 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. A current Red Cross First Aid Certificate or certified completion of the first aid test given by the California Highway Patrol. (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 school bus. (Vehicle Code 12517)

All 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)

School Bus Driver 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, 1219)

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

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (continued)

When loading or unloading, drivers shall escort all students in grades prekindergarten through eight across the street, except at locations controlled by a traffic control signal. (Code of Regulations, Title 13, 1227)

The driver may hold an 18-inch, octagonal stop sign while escorting students across the street. The driver shall first ensure that it is safe to cross. Students shall cross in front of the bus, between the bus and the driver. The driver shall make sure all students have crossed safely before setting the bus in motion. (Code of Regulations, Title 13, 1227)

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.
5. Consistently late school dismissals which cause transportation delays. (Such occurrences must also be brought to the attention of the school principal.)
6. Overload runs.

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

56195.8 Adoption of Policies

VEHICLE CODE

1808.8 Dismissal for safety-related cause

12200-12206 Transportation of school pupils

12517 School bus and pupil activity bus driver qualifications; certificates; fees

12522 First aid examination for school bus driver

12804 Examination and driving test

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