

Trinity Alps Unified School District Transportation Safety Plan

At the beginning of the school year, each student enrolled in school will receive a copy of the transportation Safety Handbook. Parents must read and discuss the handbook with their children, sign and return the form acknowledging receipt of the safety plan, before their children ride the bus. The same procedure will apply to children enrolling after the start of the school year.

State Law requires that the school bus driver activate the flashing red lights any time the bus is stopped to load or unload students. The law does provide for exemptions from this requirement under certain circumstances. A list of exempted bus stops is included in this safety plan.

1. Walking to and from bus stops

- a. Students shall use walkways whenever possible.
- b. Students shall obey all traffic signs and signals.
- c. Students shall stay out of the roadway whenever possible.

2. Conduct at bus stops

- a. All rules of conduct that apply at school also apply at school bus stops.
- b. Students shall stay out of the roadway at school bus stops.
- c. Students shall arrive approximately 5 minutes early to their bus stop.
- d. Students arriving at their bus stop after the flashing red lights have been turned off will not be allowed to board the bus.

3. Boarding and exiting the bus

Boarding:

- a. Students shall stand calmly at their bus stop.
- b. Students shall remain at designated spot until the driver opens the door.
- c. When the driver opens the door, students shall proceed calmly, in single file to the bus.
- d. Students shall take their seats promptly and quietly.

Exiting:

- a. Upon stopping of the bus, students shall calmly and quietly walk down the aisle to the top of the stairwell.
- b. When the driver opens the door, students shall exit the bus and proceed immediately to their destination; home classroom, cafeteria, gym, etc.
- c. Students must not remain in the danger zone around the bus - 10 feet from the bus in all directions.
- d. Students shall not cross the road for any reason after exiting the bus.
- e. Students shall not return to the bus for any reason without first getting the attention of the bus driver from outside danger zone -10 feet from the bus.

4. Stops where student must cross the road

- a. **Boarding: Preschool through 8th grade:** Students will remain at the bus stop in a quiet and orderly fashion. The bus driver will shut off the bus and turn off the red flashing lights. The driver will proceed to the center of the road when safe and tell the students to cross. Students will cross between the driver and the front of the bus. Students shall board the bus and go directly to their seats.
- b. **Boarding: Grades 9 through 12:** Students will remain at the bus stop in a quiet and orderly fashion. The bus driver will shut off the bus and turn off the red flashing lights. Students will make eye contact with the driver. When safe, the driver will tell the students to cross the road. Students shall cross straight across the road, board the bus and go directly to their seats.
- c. **Exiting: Preschool through 8th grade:** The bus driver will shut off the bus and activate the flashing red lights. Students shall remain on the bus until the bus driver directs the student to follow him/her off the bus.
- d. Students shall wait in front of the bus until the driver walks to the center of the road and then tells the student to cross. Students shall cross between the driver and the bus. Students shall cross directly to the opposite side of the road, and then proceed immediately home. Students shall never, for any reason, go back across the road.
- e. Students shall at all times, follow the directions of the bus driver.
- f. **Exiting: Grades 9 through 12:** Students shall remain on the bus until the bus driver opens the door and tells them to cross.
- g. Upon exiting the bus, students shall proceed at a 45-degree angle from the front of the bus to a point where they can see down the road behind the bus. When traffic is clear or stopped, students shall proceed straight across the road to the opposite side and go directly to their homes.

- h. Alternative stops:** If a student must go to a stop other than their designated stop, he/she must have a permission slip signed by their parents or legal guardians, or notification from the school office. The permission slip must contain the following information: Student Name; Requested Destination; Date for request; Signature of parent or legal guardian; Verification signature of approval from the school office.
- i.** If a student's parent or legal guardian is at a regular bus stop, other than the student's regular bus stop, the student may be released to the parent or guardian.

5. Conduct while on the bus:

- a. Remain seated while the bus is in motion. Face forward!
- b. Keep hands, head, etc. inside bus at all times!
- c. No littering!
- d. Limit conversations to seats near you. Do not yell to students several seats away.
- e. No glass containers or sunflower seeds allowed.
- f. No pets or animals may ride on the bus.
- g. No harassment of other students or the driver will be tolerated.
- h. No throwing of any object, any time!
- i. When bus stops, keep aisle clear - legs and objects out of pathway.
- j. Courteous and appropriate language is to be used. No profanity allowed.
- k. Be respectful of others and their property.
- l. Always obey the bus driver.
- m. Listen to the bus driver and follow all rules for a safe and pleasant ride.

6. Consequences for students who do not follow bus rules:

- a) School buses provide transportation to and from school and school related activities. Students riding the bus and then choosing to be truant from school will have bus-riding privileges revoked.
- b) Students who do not comply with bus rules will be not be permitted to ride the bus.
- c) Bus privileges may be revoked for any period of time the bus driver and /or the administration deem necessary for students in violation of bus rules.
- d) Students who lose bus privileges must find their own transportation to and from school.
- e) Students do not have excused absences due to lack of transportation.

7. Authority of the driver

Pupils transported in a school 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 the street or highway. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. The school governing board of trustees shall adopt rules and regulations to enforce this provision (5 CAC 14103).

8. Safety and Emergency Procedures

- a) CA Ed. Code 39831.5 requires that once each school year, every student that rides a school bus receives instruction in emergency procedures and bus evacuation.
- b) As part of the instruction, students shall evacuate the school bus through the emergency exit doors.
- c) Prior to departure on any field trip, students shall receive safety instruction that includes, but is not limited to, location of emergency exits and location and use of emergency equipment.
- d) All bus rules shall apply to activity trips as well as home to school transportation.
- e) School bus drivers at all times shall carry out their duties with the utmost concern for student safety in accordance with state law.