

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN

Palm Springs Unified School District

150 District Service Center #1010

Palm Springs, CA 92262

(760) 322-3699

This plan is to be retained by each school subject to the plan and made available upon request to any officer of the Department of the California Highway Patrol.

(Complies with 39831.3 EC)

1. Pupils attending Pre-kindergarten, Elementary and Middle schools, needing to cross the street on which the bus is stopped, shall be provided escort service at those locations where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or traffic control signal.
2. Pupils shall be instructed to stand in an orderly manner at their school bus stop and remain back from the curb or roadway edge as their assigned bus approaches.

Pupils shall be instructed to enter the bus at their assigned school bus stop in an orderly manner refraining from pushing, shoving or physical horseplay.

Pupils shall be instructed to leave the school bus at their assigned school bus stop in an orderly manner and immediately move away from the bus out of danger zones.

3. School personnel are responsible for monitoring the boarding and exiting of school buses at their site or trip destination.

Pupils shall board or exit their bus at a stop or other trip destination in an orderly manner refraining from pushing, shoving or physical horseplay.

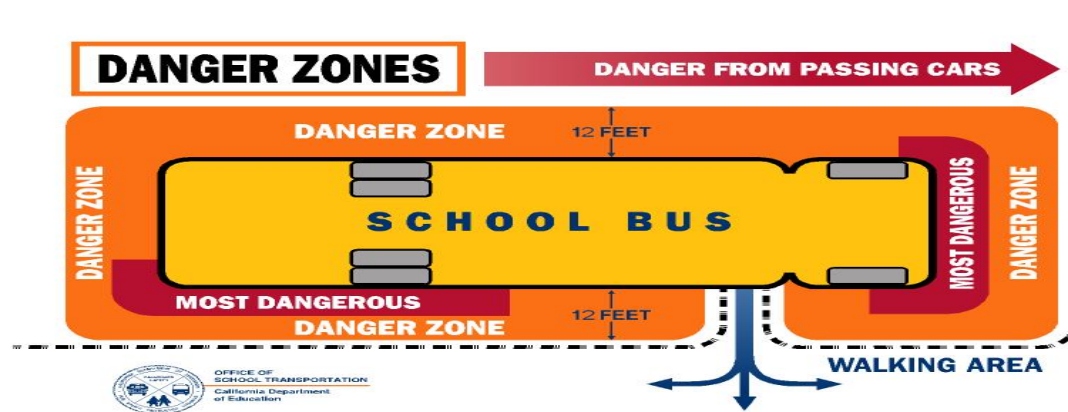
Procedures to Ensure No Child is Left Unattended

All drivers shall check their bus at the end of each trip, run or route for students who may have fallen asleep, for articles left behind, and/or for possible damage. If a student is found aboard the bus, the driver shall notify Dispatch immediately. Drivers should return all articles found aboard the bus to the school site. Articles found on field trips that cannot be identified should be turned into the dispatch office.

To ensure no child is ever left on the bus while the bus is parked and out of service or otherwise unattended, each bus servicing the District is equipped with a "Child Checkmate System". Drivers shall perform an interior inspection prior to leaving the bus unattended at the conclusion of their trip, run or route. As part of this inspection, drivers are required to utilize and initiate the "Checkmate System".

School Bus Danger Zones:

The danger zones around the outside of the school bus are approximately 12 feet from the bus, around the entire perimeter of the bus, with the front, right side, and rear being the most dangerous.



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN – Continued

Walking to and from the School Bus Stop:

1. Go directly to and from the bus stop.
2. Plan the safest route with the fewest streets to cross.
3. If possible cross streets at corners, using crosswalks if available. Look in all directions before crossing, and when safe, walk across the street. Always obey traffic signals.
4. Do not run out in the street from between parked cars or shrubbery.
5. Walk to and from school bus stops out of the roadway facing traffic.
6. Never accept a ride from a stranger.
7. Leave home early enough so you do not have to run to catch your bus.

Conduct at School Bus Loading Zones:

1. Stand in a line facing traffic so you can see the bus approaching. Stand back 6 feet from where the bus will stop. Do not approach the bus until the driver opens the door.
2. When loading at a school, follow the directions of the driver or person on bus duty. Stand back the required 6 feet from the bus in a line until the driver opens the bus doors.
3. Never go under any bus to retrieve something you have dropped. Ask the driver for assistance.
4. Destroying property, playing in or running on the street, or any type of horseplay at a bus stop is dangerous and prohibited.
5. When waiting to load or unload the bus, students are the direct responsibility of the driver or school staff, and they must follow their directions.
6. School buses can only stop at designated bus stops. If you miss the bus, have your guardian take you to school. Never run after your bus if you miss it.

Procedures to determine if pupils require escort across a highway or private road:

1. The school bus driver shall escort all transported students who must cross a highway or street on which the bus is stopped, where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or official traffic signal.
2. Prior to opening the entry door at each school bus stop, the school bus driver shall ask if anyone must cross the street on which the school bus is stopped in order to reach his/her destination.
3. Students must always cross the street “**between the driver and the front of the bus**” after the driver gives them a verbal command to do so.
4. When told to cross, students must walk, not run, completely across the roadway.
5. If your child is not already at their designated bus stop when their bus is approaching or arrives and your child needs to cross the roadway, by law, the driver shall escort the student across the roadway. **Students must never cross the roadway while the bus is approaching or is parked at the stop. Students must wait until the driver can provide a safe crossover.**

Adverse Driving Conditions

VC 34501.6 states that “The governing board of a local educational agency providing for the transportation of students shall adopt procedures that limit the operation of school buses when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to **200 feet or less** during regular Home to School Transportation Service. Operational policies for school activity trips shall give school bus drivers’ discretionary authority to discontinue school bus operation if the driver determines that it is unsafe to continue operation because of reduced visibility.”

For purposes of this safety plan, the department procedures shall be as follows:

1. The Transportation Supervisor on duty will notify the Director of Transportation Services when it is reported that atmospheric conditions are reducing visibility to 200 feet or less.
 2. The Director of Transportation Services or designee will contact and consult with the Superintendent or designee for a directive to suspend or delay transportation which; per the Superintendent may be delayed a minimum of one (1) hour for improved visibility or suspended indefinitely per the Superintendent’s discretion.
 3. School sites impacted by the decision to delay or suspend service will be notified of the decision by the Transportation Department.
 4. Parents will be notified of service delays or suspension of service upon contacting either the school site or the office of the transportation service provider.
- **School bus transportation is operated under contract with First Student Transportation Services.**