

To: Parents/Guardians of Students in the Tulare Joint Union High School District  
RE: Transportation: Safety Plan  
SY: 2023-2024

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**SCHOOL BUS  
DRIVERS**



**Safely delivering life's  
most precious cargo!**

For fog delays please call (559) 656-5990  
For Transportation routes please call (559) 688-2021



A copy of the District Transportation Safety Plan is located at each school. Required elements of the transportation safety plan include:

**1. Determining if pupils require escort pursuant to Subsection (d) Paragraph (2), (3) of Section 22112 of the Vehicle Code:**

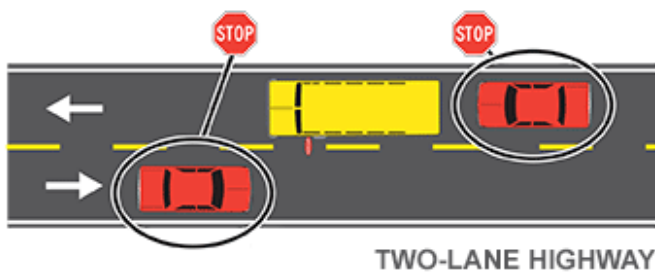
Prior to opening the door at each stop, school bus drivers will determine if students are required to cross the roadway. In addition to the requirements of paragraph (3)

Subsection (d) Paragraph (2), (3) of Section 22112 of the Vehicle Code, (2) Require all pupils who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped to walk in front of the school bus as they cross.

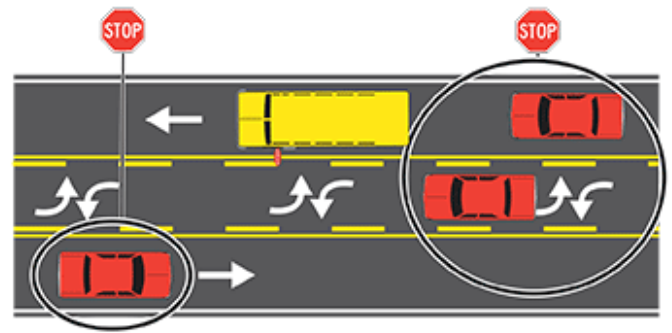
(3) Ensure that all pupils who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped have crossed safely, and that all other pupils and pedestrians are a safe distance from the school bus before setting the school bus in motion.

Tulare Joint Union High School District Transportation Department will endeavor to develop school bus routes which contain a minimum number of stops that require students to cross the roadway. Special-education pupils or other pupils who require assistance to board or leave the school bus will not normally be required to cross the roadway.

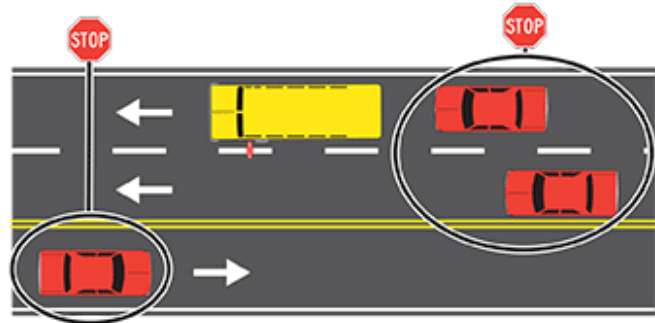
Whenever you see the alternating flashing red lights on a school bus, you must stop if you are on a two-lane highway...



TWO-LANE HIGHWAY

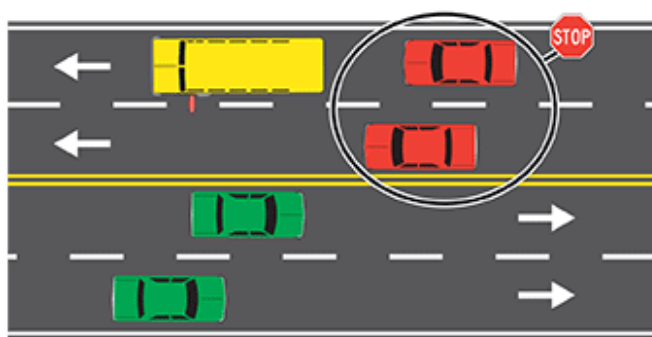


TWO-LANE HIGHWAY WITH CENTER TURN LANE

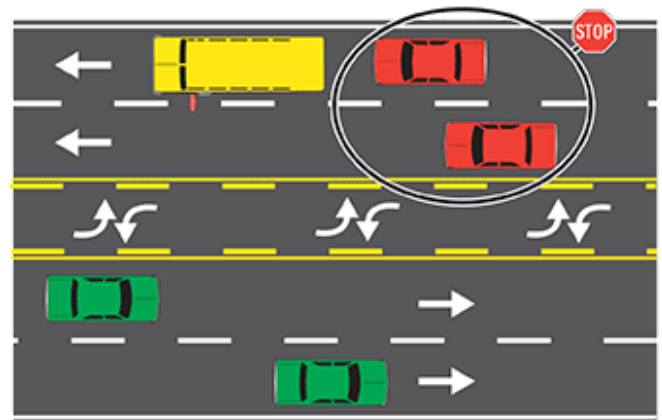


THREE-LANE HIGHWAY

...if you are on a multiple-lane roadway and you are traveling in the same direction as the bus you must stop behind the bus until the red lights have been deactivated. Vehicles that are traveling in the opposite direction of the bus are not required to stop.



FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY



FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY WITH CENTER TURN LANE

2. Procedures for all pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, to follow as they board and exit the appropriate school bus at each pupil's school bus stop:

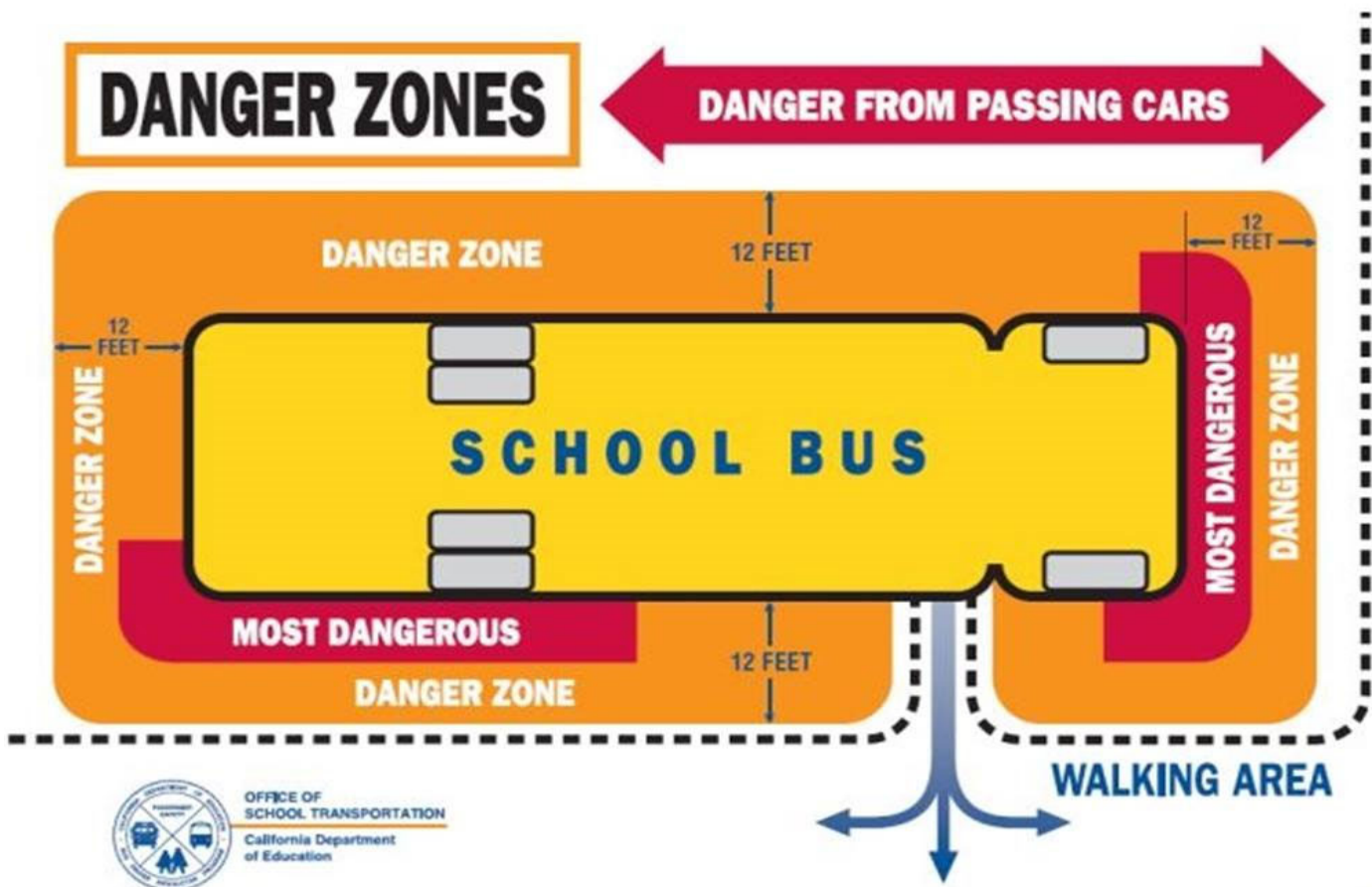
A list of authorized school bus stops and routes will be posted at each school site. Students must board and exit at their assigned stop. Requests to have a student's stop changed must be made in writing and approved in advance by the Transportation Supervisor.

Students must be at the bus stop, on the right side of the street, 5-10 minutes before the bus arrives. While waiting, they must respect the rights of property owners near the stop; vandalism, dangerous play or excessive noise may result in disciplinary action. If students are late to the stop and on the wrong side of the street, they must not cross the street until the driver gives them instructions and turns on the flashing red lights. Once again, any violation(s) of these procedures will be cause for appropriate disciplinary action.

Once the driver has closed the door and pulled away from the curb, the bus will not stop for students late to the stop. Students must never run across the street or run after a moving bus.

Students who must cross the street when they exit the bus in the afternoon must follow the driver's instructions, as stated in paragraph (2), (3) above.

Students are cautioned against entering the Danger Zone, which is the area around and within ten feet of the bus. Students exiting the bus should remain in the clear view of the bus driver after they exit. Students are expected to travel directly home from the school bus stop and are accountable to the District for their actions between the school bus stop and their homes.



Note: As of August 2009, the danger zone area has been increased to 12 feet around the bus.

3. Procedures for boarding and exiting a school bus at a school or other trip destination:

At schools or other trip destinations, students waiting to board are expected to observe the same standards of conduct, which they observe in the classroom.

Students should form an orderly line no closer than twelve feet from the entrance door of the bus, then enter the bus without delay and take seats as instructed by the driver or school administrator.

Upon arrival at schools or other trip destinations, students are expected to remain quietly seated until instructed to exit by the driver. Students may cross in front of

the bus when instructed to by the driver. Students must never cross behind the bus. Students are cautioned against entering the Danger Zone, which is the area around and within twelve feet of the bus. Students exiting the bus should remain in the clear view of the bus driver after they exit.

4. Proper conduct while riding a school bus. The conduct of the students riding Tulare Joint Union High School District buses or those chartered by Tulare Joint Union High School District, shall be the joint responsibility of the transportation director, school site administrator, bus driver, and parents.

It is very important to remember that C.C.R. title 5 (14103) grants complete authority to the school bus driver. This regulation also commits the driver to complete responsibility for what takes place on his/her bus. Therefore, the drivers' directions must be followed at all times. The following conduct is a violation of district regulations. All violations will be dealt with accordingly including but not limited to suspensions of bus riding privileges.

Reminder: The school bus is an extension of each respective school site. Therefore, all rules pertaining to student conduct while in school shall be in effect at all times when students are riding the bus.

Students will do the following:

- Required to wear seat belts at all times when the bus is in motion
- Ride only those buses to which students are eligible and assigned to, and normally take to and from school.
- Observe classroom conduct.
- Remain seated and facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- Keep your entire body inside the bus at all times.
- Sit in seats and areas assigned by the bus driver.
- Exit the bus through the front door only, unless otherwise directed by the driver.

Students will not do the following:

- Threaten, harm or endanger the safety of the passengers and/or drivers.

- Possess lighting devices, alcoholic beverages, drugs, glass containers, live animals/insects, explosive devices or weapons, pressurized containers (hair spray, perfume, paint, etc.).
  - Engage in boisterous conduct, fighting or throwing of any object inside or outside of the bus.
  - Use profane, vulgar/abusive language or gestures.
  - Write on seats, walls or intentionally damage any portion of the bus.
  - Tamper with school bus equipment
  - Students will refrain from cell phone use when entering or exiting the bus to increase their awareness.
5. School bus emergency evacuation procedure exercises

At least once each school year the Tulare Joint Union High School District will conduct school bus emergency evacuation exercises in order to meet and/or maintain two specific state requirements:

1. To achieve the highest level of safe riding practices while students are being transported to or from school and/or school related activities.

2. To meet or exceed E.C. 39831.5 which mandates all school bus motor carriers to instruct pupils in emergency procedures and passenger safety. Notification will be sent to parents with information regarding school bus emergency evacuation practices prior to these events take place.

6. Safe walking routes to school All students who choose to walk to school are to do so by following a safe route. Students are encouraged to always:

- A. Walk with classmates, friends or family members
- B. Look both ways before crossing streets or intersections.
- C. Use a crosswalk or cross at street corners.
- D. Always cross at designated intersections where district cross guards can escort students across roadways
- E. Never accept a ride from a stranger.

7. School bus stops. All school bus stops within Tulare Joint Union High School District boundaries are designated by the district superintendent and approved for safety by the California Highway Patrol. A list of all school bus stops and schedules

will be made readily available at each school site office. In order to exceed California safety standards for school pupil transportation the following is required:

1. Parents and students must be familiar with the school bus route schedule.
  2. Students must arrive at their designated stop 5-10 minutes before the bus arrives.
  3. Each driver will instruct students on how to line up properly while waiting for the bus to arrive. Students must remain twelve (12) feet away from the bus as the bus approaches the stop.
  4. Proper loading and unloading procedures are required each day while riding the bus. Any display of behavior violating the required procedures for loading and unloading will result in appropriate disciplinary measures.
  5. Any student who is not familiar with the school bus transportation system should be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult to and from school bus stops.
- All of the above recommendations, procedures, policies and laws have been designed and implemented for the sole purpose of providing the safest means of transportation for all students who ride Tulare Joint Union High School District buses. With the cooperation of district administration, staff, parents, and students this community will continue to enjoy the safety and success of the time-honored tradition of riding the “yellow bus” to school each day.

#### **Unassigned Bus Stop:**

No student shall be allowed to utilize any designated bus stop other than the student’s primary designated stop without the written permission of the pupil’s parent/guardian and approval and direction from the site administrator/principal. This permission shall include the full name of the parent/guardian, the home and or work phone number and a legal signature giving the department this permission. No pupil shall be allowed to disembark at a location other than a district approved designated bus stop. Disembarking at a stop other than the student’s designated stop will be sufficient cause to suspend the student’s riding privilege.

Skyler Summers, Transportation Supervisor  
Ryan Denning, School Bus Driver Instructor