

# Cuyama Joint Unified School District

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## Transportation Safety Plan January 11, 2024

Transportation Services  
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New Cuyama, CA 93254  
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The Following Cuyama Joint Unified School District Transportation Safety plan has been developed pursuant to California Education code 393831.3. This document is maintained by Maintenance and Transportation Dept.

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This plan was reviewed by bus drivers Eric Callaway and Mary Jo Harrington – December 2023

Updated by Superintendent Principal Mr. Alfonso Gamino

Revision: Page 4 – Added the Reduced Visibility and Procedure for Reduced Visibility

Board approved date: January 11, 2024

### California Education Code 39831.3

- (a) The county superintendent of schools, the superintendent of a school district, a charter school, or the owner or operator of a private school that provides transportation to or from a school or school activity shall prepare a transportation safety plan containing procedures for school personnel to follow to ensure the safe transport of pupils. The plan shall be revised as required.  
The plan shall address all of the following
- (1) Determining if pupils require escort pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 22112 of the Vehicle Code.
  - (2) (A) Procedures for all pupils in prekindergarten, 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.  
(B) Nothing in this paragraph requires a county superintendent of schools, the superintendent of a school district, a charter school, or the owner or operator of a private school that provides transportation to or from a school or school activity, to use the services of an onboard school bus monitor, in addition to the driver, to carry out the purpose of this paragraph.
  - (3) Boarding and exiting a school bus at a school or other trip destination.
  - (4) Procedures to ensure that a pupil is not left unattended on a school bus, school pupil activity bus, or youth bus.
  - (5) A current copy of a plan prepared pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be retained by each school subject to the plan and made available upon request to an officer of the Department of the California Highway Patrol.
- (Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 721, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2017.)

### California Vehicle Code 22112: School Bus Signal and School Bus Stops:

- (a) On approach to a school bus stop where pupils are loading or unloading from a school bus, the school bus driver shall activate an approved amber warning light system, if the school bus is so equipped, beginning 200 feet before the school bus stop. The school bus driver shall deactivate the amber warning light system amber reaching the school bus stop. The school bus driver shall operate the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm, as required on the school bus, at all times when the school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils. The flashing red light signal system, amber warning lights system, and stop signal arm shall not be operate at any place where traffic is controlled by a traffic officer or at any location identified in subdivision (e) of this section. The school bus flashing red light signal system, amber warning lights system, and stop signal arm shall not be operated at any other time.
- (b) The school bus driver shall stop to load or unload pupils only at a school bus stop designated for pupils by the school district superintendent or the head or principal of a private school or authorized district personnel for school activity trips.
- (c) When a school bus is stopped on a highway or private road for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer, the driver shall, before opening the door, ensure that the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm are activated, and that it is safe to enter or exit the school bus.

- (d) When a school bus is stopped on a highway or private road for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or official traffic control signal, the school bus driver shall do all of the following:
- (1) Escort all pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1 to 8 inclusive, who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped. The driver shall use an approved hand-held "STOP" sign while escorting all pupils.
  - (2) Require all pupils who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped walk in front of the 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.
- (e) Except at a location where pupils are loading or unloading from a school bus and must cross a highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped, the school bus driver may not activate the amber warning light system, the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm at any of the following locations:
- (1) School bus loading zones on or adjacent to school grounds or during an activity trip, if the school bus is lawfully stopped or parked.
  - (2) Where the school bus is disabled due to mechanical breakdown. The driver of a relief bus that arrives at the scene to transport pupils from the disabled school bus shall not activate the amber warning light system, the flashing red light system, and the stop signal arm.
  - (3) Where a pupil requires physical assistance from the driver or authorized attendant to board or leave the school bus and providing the assistance extends the length of time the school bus is stopped beyond the time required to load or unload a pupil that does not require physical assistance.
  - (4) Where the roadway surface on which the bus is stopped is partially or completely covered by snow or ice and requiring traffic to stop would pose a safety hazard as determined by the school bus motor carrier.
  - (5) On a state highway with a posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour or higher where the school bus is completely off the main traveled portion of the highway.
  - (6) Any location determined by a school district or a private school, with the approval of the Department of the California Highway Patrol, to present a traffic or safety hazard.
- (f) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, the Department of the California Highway Patrol may require the activation of an approved flashing amber warning light system, if the school bus is so equipped, or the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm, as required on a school bus, at any location where the department determines that the activation is necessary for the safety of school pupils loading or unloading from a school bus.

(Amended by Stats. 2012, Ch. 769, Sec. 35. Effective January 1, 2013.)

## **TRANSPORTATION MISSION STATEMENT**

The Cuyama Joint Unified School District Transportation Department is dedicated to providing safe, efficient and respectful service. Our drivers are dedicated towards creating and maintaining safe driving behaviors and positive and consistent social environments that best support our student's success. We believe the social development of our students is important. Therefore, we focus on making connections with our students, so they understand that school bus drivers are an important part of their community support system where they feel supported by a safe and predictable social environment.

The Cuyama Joint Unified School Bus Driver are safety driven. Our drivers are part of a California team that has an unparalleled safety record. Simply put the more students who ride our Cuyama Joint Unified School District buses, the safer our rural community's children will be. School Bus transportation is the safest type of transportation in the state and in the nation. Cuyama Joint Unified School District Bus Drivers take pride in providing safe transportation to our students on a daily basis.

Cuyama Joint Unified School District provides transportation for eligible Special Education students, non-Special Education students and extracurricular activities for students in transitional kinder through grade 12.

### **Authority of District Boards - Title 13 CCR 1202(b)**

(b) Authority of District Boards. The governing board of any school district, county superintendent of schools, or equivalent private school entity or official, may adopt and enforce additional requirements governing the transportation of pupils. Such requirements shall not conflict with any law or state administrative regulation.

### **Snow Day**

When we have days when we know there is a storm coming in, the principal will be on-site at normal school start hours.

On days where there are big storms, we may have to either delay transportation, or even close the schools on that day. The decision will be made the Superintendent/Principal.

### **Reduced Visibility**

The Cuyama Joint Unified School District board of education is an agency that provides for the transportation of pupils/students therefore, the district has adopted procedures that limit the operation of school buses when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to 200 feet or less during the regular home-to-school transportation service. In addition, the district's operational policies for school activity field trips gives 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. Some example conditions where reduced visibility may occur can be due to fog, snowstorm, and sand blowing on the road. There may be other conditions that may reduce visibility as well. In the case of fog, the district may call a 2-hour delay when visibility is less than 200 feet. The CJUSD Reduced Visibility plan aligned with the California vehicle code section 34501.6

**Procedure for Reduced Visibility:** By 5:30 a.m., the transportation supervisor for the district decides if the visibility on the bus routes are not safe to run the buses. If he decides that it is not safe to drive, he will notify the superintendent and then the district will make an "Alert Solutions" automated notification to all parents, guardians, and staff regarding a school delay. The delay will be lifted when visibility is at least 200' (feet) for the drivers.

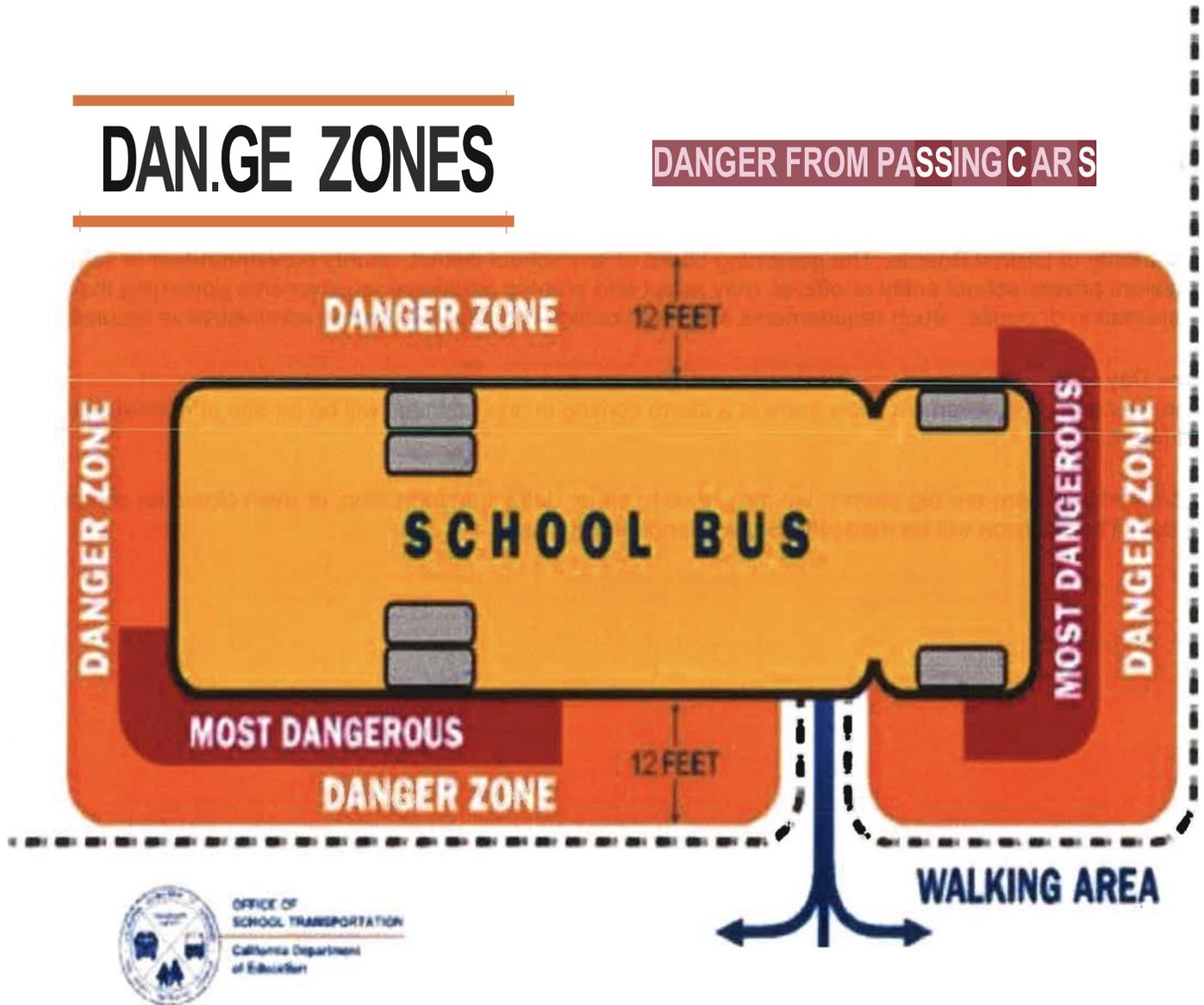
# General Loading/Unloading Procedures of the School Bus

## The School Bus Danger Zone

Each student must be aware of the area surrounding the school bus called the Danger Zone. The Danger Zone is the area extending 12 feet in all directions from the school bus in which serious student injuries and deaths occur. When the student boards and leaves the school bus they must follow the routes shown on the Danger Zone illustration. This places them within view of the school bus driver at all times.

### DANGER ZONES

### DANGER FROM PASSING CARS



## **Procedures for Boarding the Bus**

Students should learn the correct route identification for the route they are riding to school or home.

- Students shall wait at designated bus stops, and they shall arrive 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Students waiting for the bus shall do so in a safe location.
- Students will not run towards the bus when the bus is approaching.
- Students will wait at least twelve (12) feet back from the edge of the curb or roadway.
- Students will wait in line forming away from the edge of the curb or roadway.

Students will wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and will not approach the bus until the front door is opened.

- Students will take a seat on their own or as directed by the driver of the bus.
- Students shall talk quietly, not stand up nor turn around in the seat, respect others and their property as well the integrity of the school bus. There is no eating, drinking or gum chewing allowed while on the bus by students.

## **Procedures for Unloading the Bus at School or at Bus Stop**

- Students will remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus door is opened. The bus is not considered stopped until the door opens. Students shall not stand on the bus while the bus is in motion.
- Student will exit the bus one row at a time beginning with the front of the bus in an orderly manner in compliance with the driver's instructions.
- Students will use the handrail at the door and walk down each step to the ground.
- After exiting, students should walk away from the bus and not touch or lean against the bus. They will not return to or run after the bus. There will be no horseplay at or near the bus.
- Students shall not cross the street upon which the bus is parked without assistance from the bus driver. Parents/guardians should wait on the side of the street which the designated stop is located.

**Students' parents/guardians must be present, waiting on the same side of the street as the bus stop.** If must-be-met student's parent or guardian is not present and the transportation department is not able to make contact the student will be returned to the transportation department.

## Procedures for Exiting the Bus at Escorted Stops

- Students will be given instruction to wait at an area designated by the bus driver.
- When escorting students, the driver shall, before opening the door, ensure that the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm (if equipped) are activated and it is safe to exit the bus.
- The driver will exit the bus and walk approximately 10 feet in front of the bus before turning to enter the roadway and instruct the student to "wait".
- Using the handheld stop sign, the driver will walk to the center of the street and assure all traffic is topped before verbally signaling the student to walk between the bus and the driver. The driver shall escort the student across the street in front of the bus and follow the last student on the bus, making sure that all students are across the street before leaving the street.

## When Crossing the Roadway

- Cuyama Joint Unified School District requires all school bus drivers to escort all students, 6th through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, who need to go across the street as they depart the bus.  
**Parents/guardians of Pre- Kindergarten through 5th grade need to be on the same side of the road as the bus.**

- Always let your bus driver be the first person off the bus. The driver needs to activate the bus "red lights" that flash on the outside of the bus to warn cars to stop for children crossing the street.

Once your driver is off the bus, you can walk down the bus steps, and wait on the sidewalk or dirt shoulder next to the bus, for your driver to direct you to cross the street. Never go out into the street without the bus driver telling you to do so!

- Always walk between the bus and the bus driver, as you cross the street. Once you are on the other side of the street, stay on that side of the street. Do not play in the street. Go directly home.

At a traffic light, all students must comply with directions of the official traffic-controlled signal on the street.

## Walking to and from Bus Stops

- Go directly home from the bus stop. Plan the safest route with the fewest streets to cross.
- If possible cross streets and corner. Look in all directions before crossing and when safe walk across the street. Always obey traffic signals.
- Watch for vehicles that might be making a turn.
- Do not dart from between parked cars or shrubbery.
- Never accept a ride from a stranger.
- If possible, face traffic when walking on road without sidewalks and always use caution.
- Be extra careful during time of sunrise and sunset, bad weather and during darkness (wear white clothing or something reflective).
- Leave home early enough so you do not have to run.

# Rules and Regulations

5CCR14103

## Authority of the Driver

- (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 reroute between home and school or other destinations. (b) Governing boards shall adopt rules to enforce this section. Such rules shall include, but not be limited to, specific administration procedures relating to suspension of riding privileges and shall be made available to parent, pupils, teachers, and other interested parties.

Note: Authority cited: Section 39381, Education Code. Reference: Section 39830 and 39831, Education Code. Cross-reference: Section 1717(h) of Title 13, California Administrative Code.

This database is current through 7/28/17 Register 2017, No. 30  
5 CCR 14103,5 CA ADC 14103

## **Authorized Entry**

\* At the driver's discretion: Staff and parents may enter the bus to assist in loading and unloading.

## **Unauthorized Entry**

- The Superintendent or designee may place a notice at bus entrance that warns against unauthorized entry. The driver or another school official may order any person to disembark if that person enters a bus without prior authorization and has intent to commit a crime. (Education Code 39842; 13 CCR 1256.5)

## **Procedure for Warnings of Unauthorized**

By law the driver is responsible for the safety of all students while aboard his/her bus. In an effort to assist with that duty the Superintendent/principal or designee will provide information to the school bus driver, school, parent or guardian to inform of against unauthorized entry.

The Driver will notify the Superintendent/principal or designee in writing should there be any incident that constitutes unauthorized entry.

### **Emergency Equipment**

Each school bus shall be equipped with a first aid kit, roadside warning devices, and at least one fire extinguisher located in the driver's compartment which meets the standards specified in law. Each driver as part of their required daily vehicle inspection (pre-trip) shall insure that the bus they are operating is properly equipped with the required emergency equipment based upon bus type/ size and is in good working order. The fire extinguisher(s) are properly rated as required by law.

### **Procedures for School Bus Incidents/Collisions**

In the event of a bus incident/collision, the driver shall immediately secure the bus and cause the appropriate authorities to be notified of the event. CHP/CJUSD.

Driver will contact CHP and request emergency medical services if any pupils are injured.

Bus Driver will notify the Superintendent/principal or designee.

Students should be released by the CHP officer investigating the scene.

The school site and/or designee will notify parents or guardians of any injured student. In all cases, regardless of the qualifying criteria for determining a school bus collision, the driver will provide a collision report to facilitate the reporting requirements for the Lead Maintenance person and/or designee(s).

### **Bus evacuation & Safety Instruction**

- All students who are transported in a school bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety. The district shall provide instruction during the first three months of the school year. This instruction includes passenger conduct, bus evacuation, crossing roadways, proper loading and unloading and red light escorts. As part of the instruction students will exit the bus through the emergency exit door. Prior to departure on field trips, the driver shall give safety instructions which include the location of emergency exits and the location and use of emergency equipment.

## **Passenger Restraint Systems**

- When a school bus or student activity bus is equipped with a passenger restraint system, all passengers shall be required to properly restrain by the system while the bus is in motion. Bus drivers shall be informed of procedures to be followed to reasonably ensure that all passengers are so restrained. (Title 5 CCR Section 14105: "All passengers in a school bus or in a school pupil activity bus that is equipped with passenger restraint systems in accordance with sections 27316 and 27316.5 of the Vehicle Code, shall use the passenger restraint system.")

## **Procedure for Use of Passenger Restraint System**

- The driver shall ensure that all students who board the bus are properly restrained. Instruction shall be given during the annual emergency evacuation drills on the proper use of the passenger restraint system while the bus is in motion. Prior to operation all drivers shall inspect as part of the pre-trip inspection the passenger restraint system currently available on each bus (bus that has a passenger restraint system) to ensure that all students are protected to the maximum extent. VC 27316 (c): "No person, school district, or organization with respect to a school bus equipped with passenger restraint systems pursuant to this section, may be charged for a violation of this code or any regulation adopted there under requiring a passenger to use a passenger restraint system, if a passenger on the school bus fails to use or improperly uses the passenger restraint system..." district or company policies and procedures should be developed to enforce disciplinary actions for non-use or improper use of the passenger restraint system. The driver, school district, or organization still may be charged civilly if reasonable care was not provided for the passenger(s).

## **Safety Tips**

### **Conduct at School Bus Loading Zone & Bus Stops**

- Stand in lines or a group facing traffic so you can see the bus approaching. Stand back 12 feet from where the bus will stop. Do not approach the bus until the driver opens the bus door.
- When loading at a school, follow the directions of the driver and/or teacher on bus duty. Stand back the required 12 feet until the bus driver opens the bus door. Remember, there may be several buses to watch out for, not just your own.
- Never go under any bus to retrieve something you've dropped. Ask the driver to assist. Never run to a bus, always walk.
- Destroying property, playing in or running across the street or any type of horseplay at a bus stop is not allowed.
- When the bus is stopped to load or unload, the students are the direct responsibility of the bus driver and the driver's directions must be followed.

- School buses can only stop at designated bus stops. If you miss the bus, have mom or dad take you to another bus stop or directly to school and remember never run after your bus once it leaves!

When waiting for the bus in a car, be sure your car is not parked in the bus loading/unloading zone. Make sure that you are out of the car, waiting at the stop, prior to the bus arriving.

## **School Bus Rules**

- All students (regular education and special education) are required to:
- Arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Use only his/her designated bus stop.
- Use only his/her designated bus stop.
- Refrain from transporting hazardous or destructive objects of any kinds such as firearms, weapons, glass objects or containers, explosives, sharp or pointed objects, skateboards, razor scooters or ball bats.
- Respect the rights and property of others on the bus and at the bus stop.
- Avoid all fighting and rough play while at the bus stop, on the bus, or when getting on or off the bus.
- Always enter and leave the bus through the entrance door except in emergencies.
- Remain quiet at railroad crossings.
- Keep all parts of the body inside the bus.
- Keep windows closed unless otherwise instructed by the bus operator.
- Not use profane language, obscene gestures, create excessive, or unnecessary noise.
- Do not damage or deface any part of the bus, tamper with the radio, bus controls, emergency exits or other equipment, shoot at or throw away objects inside or outside of the bus, or in any way endanger the safety of others.
- Help keep the bus safe & free from litter by not eating, drinking or gum chewing on the bus.
- Be courteous and respectful to the bus driver, other students, and passersby.
- Obey the request of the bus driver, give proper identification when requested.
- Always cross in front of the bus when it is necessary to cross the street.

## **Mechanical Breakdown**

When a school bus is disabled due to a mechanical failure and students are aboard that require transportation, the relief vehicle should drive to the front of and pull in line with and as close to the disabled vehicle as possible. Vehicle Code Section 22112(d) states that a school bus disabled due to mechanical breakdown and/or the relief bus shall not activate the flashing red light system while loading and unloading passengers. The drivers of both vehicles should activate the hazard lights prior to the unloading and loading of passengers.

## **School Activity Trips**

### **Loading School Buses at a School Site:**

- If the students are not crossing the roadway the bus is on to board the bus, then the driver shall not activate the flashing amber warning light system when loading/unloading.
- Students will fill each seat on the bus as instructed by teacher and/or bus driver.
- The group or athletic team will assemble in an area away from the school bus. When the students are ready to load, the driver will commence loading.
- Upon completion of loading, the driver will proceed with the bus evacuation and safety presentation. This shall include an explanation and demonstration of all emergency exits, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, etc.

Upon completion of the presentation, the driver will require the chaperone/coach to sign the trip sheet. The driver will then depart when safe to do so.

### **Loading/Unloading at the Activity Destination Site:**

- Upon arrival at the destination, the driver will select an area where the bus can be lawfully parked and where students do not have to cross the street that the bus is on so loading/unloading will be easier.
- The school will provide at least 1 adult chaperone per bus to accompany students.
- The driver, as necessary, will provide instructions to the chaperone/coach(s) regarding the time and location where the group will assemble to reload the school bus.

## **Adult Chaperones**

Schools shall provide at least 1 adult chaperone to accompany pupils on each school pupil activity trip.

## **School Bus Safety Law**

- School bus drivers shall ensure that students are not left unattended on a school bus, except to perform red light escorts to other students 22112(d) VC, comply with the legal requirements of collisions and mechanical breakdowns. All drivers shall remain in the immediate vicinity of the school bus.

## **S.B. 1072**

- **The Paul Lee School Bus Safety Law**

- In accordance with Education Code § 39831.3(a)(4), the Transportation Department deploys the following departmental policy to ensure students are not left unattended on a school bus:
- After each run (this means at each school site in the morning and after the last stop for each school in the mid-day and the PM) all drivers will physically walk to the rear of the bus and check each row of seats to ensure that there are NO STUDENTS still on board. This bus check shall include looking under the bus seats.
- Upon returning to the Transportation facility, drivers will once again physically walk to the rear of the bus and check each row of seats to ensure that there are NO STUDENTS still on board. This bus check shall include looking under the bus seats.

## **School Bus Safety Information**

- Riding on a school bus is one of the safest, if not the safest form of transportation in the nation. School bus drivers carry the most precious cargo that can be carried over the roadways. Drivers are trained and continue to be trained throughout their careers. They even have to demonstrate their skills to the California Highway Patrol through periodic testing so they can continue to drive a school bus.

Riding in a school bus is:

- 172 times safer than your family automobile
- 8 times safer than passenger trains or commercial airlines
- 4 times safer than transit buses or intercity buses

Collisions are rare because school districts and the drivers themselves train and work hard at driving defensively to avoid collisions. In addition, the school buses themselves are designed to withstand all but the most serious crashes without death or serious injury. With continued training, to help children learn how to get on and off the school bus safely, parents, drivers and teachers can help prevent the remaining few collisions that now occur.