



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR RIDERS



It is the mission of the Bonita USD Transportation

Department to provide SAFE, RELIABLE,

AND COST-EFFECTIVE services with students as our FOCUS!

Bonita Transportation Department

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The Bonita Unified School District provides transportation services for Special Education students, Non Special Education students, and extracurricular activities for eligible students in the Bonita Unified School District.

The following procedures and protocols are intended to keep our students safe as we transport students on home to school routes and extracurricular activities:

- New Rider Information
- School Bus Rules
- Conduct at School Bus Loading Zone & Bus Stops
- Procedures for Boarding & Unloading at Bus Stops
- Crossing the Roadway
- School Bus Escort Procedures
- Walking to and from Bus Stops
- School Bus Danger Zones

New Rider Information

Upon registration, the parents or guardians of all pupils not previously transported in a school bus or school pupil activity bus and who are in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 6, inclusive shall be provided with written information on school bus safety. The information shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

- A list of school bus stops near pupils' homes.
- General rules of conduct at school bus loading zones.
- Red light crossing instruction.
- School bus danger zone information.
- Procedures walking to and from bus stops.

School Bus Rules

All students (regular education and special education) are required to:

- Arrive at the bus stop ten (10) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Use only his/her designated bus stop.
- Arrange for the transport of live animals, insects or reptiles to or from school by other means than on the bus.
- Refrain from transporting hazardous or destructive objects of any kinds such as firearms, weapons, glass objects or containers, explosives, helium balloons, sharp or pointed objects, skate boards, 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.
- 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.

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 dangerous and prohibited.
- Do not bring pets or animals to a bus stop.
- 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.
- 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.

Procedures for Boarding the Bus

- Students should learn the correct route identification for the route they are riding to school or home; buses and drivers may change.
- Students shall wait at designated bus stops and they shall arrive ten 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 a 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 be directed to a seat 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 as 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 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.
- Students 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 driver. Parents/guardians should wait on the side of the street which the designated stop is located.
- Must-be-met 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 are not present the student will be returned to the school.

School Bus Escort

When a schoolbus 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 schoolbus driver shall determine if pupils require escort pursuant to paragraph (1) of sub division (d) of Section 22112 of the vehicle code

Procedures for Loading the Bus at Escorted Stops

- Students will wait to be given instructions by the 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 students to "wait".
- Using the handheld stop sign, the driver will walk to the center of the street and assure all traffic is stopped before verbally signaling the students to walk between the bus and the driver. The driver shall escort the students across the street in front of the bus and wait until the last student has step on the curb before loading the bus.

Procedures for Exiting the Bus at Escorted Stops

- Students will be given instructions to wait at an area designated by the 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 students to “wait”.
- Using the handheld stop sign, the driver will walk to the center of the street and assure all traffic is stopped before verbally signaling the students to walk between the bus and the driver. The driver shall escort the students across the street in front of the bus and wait until the last student has step on the curb across the street before returning to the bus.

Red Light Crossing without Escort

- At a traffic light, all students must comply with the directions of the official traffic controlled signal on the street.
- Students will wait on sidewalk until “Walk” light has determined if it is safe to cross the street.
- Students will cross within marked crosswalk area.
- Once students are on the other side of the street, they will stay on that side of the street. Students should not play in the street and go directly home.

Red Light Crossing with Escort

- The driver will determine if students are crossing the street
- The driver will first exit the bus
- Students will wait on the sidewalk until driver gives the verbal command to cross
- Students will cross between the bus and the driver
- Students will tell driver if they have dropped or forgotten any items.

- Once students are on the other side of the street, they will stay on that side of the street. Students should not play in the street and go directly home.

Crossing the Roadway

- The bus driver will 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 the driver is off the bus, students will walk down the bus steps, and wait on the sidewalk, next to the bus, for the bus driver to direct them to cross the street. Students should never go out into the street without the bus driver telling them to do so!
- Students should walk between the bus and the bus driver, as they cross the street..
- Once students are on the other side of the street, they will stay on that side of the street. Students should not play in the street and go directly home.

Walking to and from Bus Stops

- Students should always go directly home from the bus stop. Plan the safest route with the fewest streets to cross.
- If possible cross streets and corners, using crosswalks if available. 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 roads without sidewalks and always use caution.
- Be extra careful during times of sunrise and sunset, bad weather and during darkness (wear white clothing or something reflective).
- Leave home early enough so they do not have to run.

