

Ceres Unified School District

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PLAN

The "Thomas Edward Lanni School Bus Safety Act of 1997" requires that the following items be incorporated into a school bus safety plan. The act also requires that the School Bus Safety Plan be on file at school sites and the Transportation office.

Pupils Requiring Escort

All pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1 to 8, inclusive, shall be escorted across the highway or private road.

Rules for Boarding and Exiting the Bus for All Pupils in PreK - 8

At Each Pupil's School Bus Stop

1. Pupils must be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. State law does not permit care providers (parents/sitters, etc.) to escort any pupils across the roadway with the bus present, therefore, the care provider must wait on the same side of the roadway as the bus stop.
2. Pupils shall line up and stand in an orderly manner at least twelve (12) feet away from the location where the bus will stop.
3. Pupils shall wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door before moving closer than twelve (12) feet from the bus.
4. Pupils shall enter the bus in an orderly manner and shall not bring aboard items of injurious or objectionable nature.
5. Pupils shall exit the bus in an orderly manner as directed by the driver.
6. When exiting the bus, all Pre-K-8 pupils must wait to be escorted by the driver across the road.
7. When exiting the bus, all 9-12 pupils may cross the road without an escort as long as the red lights on the bus are flashing and all traffic has stopped. Students must cross in front of the bus.

At A School or Other Trip Destination

1. Pupils shall line up and stand in an orderly manner at least twelve (12) feet away from the location where the bus will stop.
2. Pupils shall wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver opens the door before moving closer than twelve (12) feet from the bus.
3. Pupils shall enter the bus in an orderly manner and shall not bring aboard items of injurious or objectionable nature.
4. Pupils shall exit the bus in an orderly manner as directed by the driver or other adult in charge of the trip.
5. Pupils shall wait outside the bus in an orderly manner as directed by the adult in charge of the trip.

SB – 1072 School bus safety: child safety alert system - Requirements

1. Drivers shall follow procedures to ensure that a pupil is not left unattended on a school bus.
2. After each route the driver shall walk the length of the bus checking behind and under seats to insure that no child is left unattended.

California Vehicle Code Requirements

CVC 22112

(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 after 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 operated 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 by any of those individuals 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 prekindergarten, 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 to 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 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 the 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.