



# Paramount Unified School District

## Transportation Policies

### Contact Information

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Transportation Department  
Telephone (562) 602-8095  
Fax (562) 602-8108

Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday  
6:00am – 4:30pm

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### For your student's safety...

#### All School Buses are equipped with:

- Air Conditioning
- Seat Belt Restraints
- Video Surveillance Cameras
- Geo Trackers
- Natural Gas Engine systems
- First Aid Kits
- Fire Extinguishers
- Reflectors

#### Taxis are equipped with:

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- Air Conditioning
- Seat Belts
- Video Surveillance Cameras
- GPS Tracking
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Tablet for Communication w/ Dispatch

## Frequently Asked Questions

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- **Who may ride a school bus?**

*Students in grades TK-5 who live one mile or more from the home school; 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students living two miles or more from the home school; and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students living three miles or more from the home school.*

- **Who may ride a van or taxi?**

*Students may be assigned to a van or taxi depending on the needs of the student as determined by the IEP process.*

- **What happens if there is no one to receive a kindergarten student at the bus/taxi stop?**

*Kindergarten students are required to have a designated person at the bus/taxi stop to receive them. If the designated person is not at the bus/taxi stop, the student will be returned to their school of attendance. It will then be the parent's responsibility to pick up the student(s) from the school site. Future transportation privileges may be suspended if a student is returned to the school on multiple occasions.*

- **When I'm present at my child's bus stop, may I walk my child across the street without the school bus driver's assistance?**

*NO. California law dictates that all students in grades TK-8 **MUST** be escorted across the street by their school bus driver, even if the child's parent is present.*

- **What type of communication does the Transportation Department have with the bus driver or taxi drivers, when they are transporting students?**

*All district buses are radio equipped. Radios are expressly used for the safety of students and to determine the whereabouts of a bus or student. All buses are also equipped with Sonar/Geo tracking devices. Taxi drivers can be contacted via cell phone or by message to the vehicle's dispatch communication tablet. Taxi drivers will only make or receive phone calls when they are parked and safely able to do so. All taxi drivers must always have Bluetooth headsets and drivers cannot be on the phone while transporting students.*

- **Are school buses and taxis safe?**

*All school buses must be certified by the Motor Carrier Division of the California Highway Patrol annually. The Motor Carrier Division ensures that the buses are maintained according to state established standards and an approved, documented maintenance program is in place. All taxis are inspected by the Department of Transportation annually. Additionally, taxi drivers are to inspect their vehicles daily and vehicles may be subject to additional routine safety inspections by the taxi company coordinators and supervisors.*

*Some vehicles are also subject to inspection by DOT and Access Services vehicles are inspected every 3,500 miles by an ASE certified mechanic.*

- **How are school bus drivers trained?**

*All drivers must be certified by the California Highway Patrol. Prior to certification, the driver must complete a medical examination (including TB), complete at least twenty hours of classroom training, and at least twenty hours behind the wheel training, and pass a fingerprint and background check. All drivers must also complete ten hours of in service training each year. Drivers must renew their school bus certificate every 5 years. Also, the Transportation Department gets notification from the DMV if any action is taken on a school bus driver's license.*

- **How are taxi drivers trained?**

*All taxi drivers must pass a TB, fingerprint, and background test. Aside from annual safety training, taxi drivers attend a yearly class reviewing the School Run Program. Taxi drivers are trained on required school district policies and procedures and must review the School Run Rules prior to starting their route. All taxi drivers are also CPR certified.*

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## **Bus and Taxi Conduct/Safety Rules**

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The District provides bus, van, and/or taxi transportation for its students in accordance with the California Education Code. To provide this service with maximum safety, all students must understand that the bus/taxi driver is in complete charge and control of the bus or taxi.

School bus drivers have a tremendous responsibility entrusted to them, and it is important that they have your child's cooperation and your cooperation in following the bus rules to ensure their ride is safe and enjoyable.

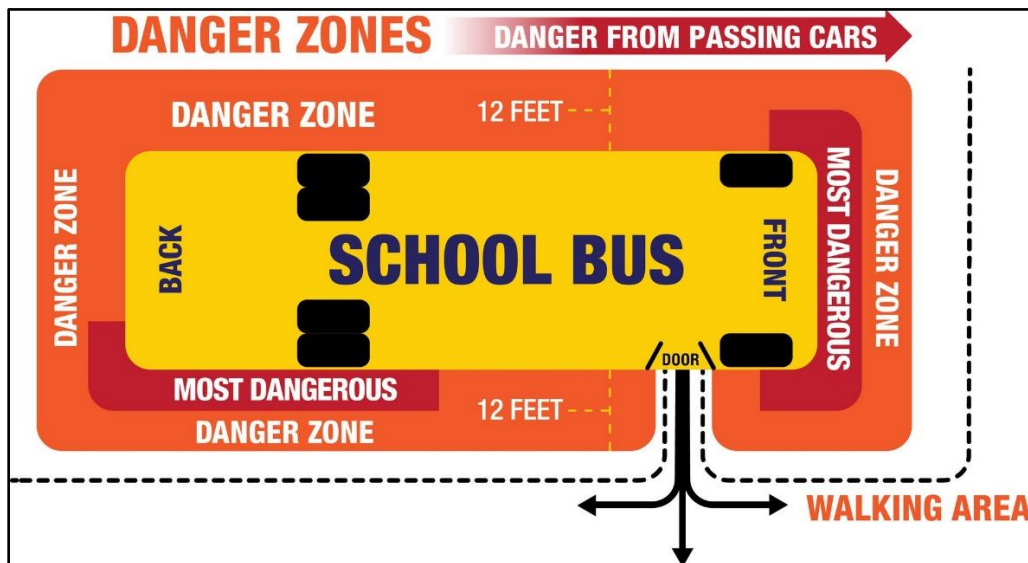
California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 14263 governing pupil transportation states: "Pupils transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they 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."

School bus rules of conduct are established first and foremost to ensure that all eligible students have a safe ride to and from home. The school bus is an extension of the classroom, and appropriate behavior is always expected. For those unable to follow the established rules, a series of consequences are applied appropriate to the offense.

1. Please arrive at the assigned pick-up point at least five (5) minutes before the bus is due to arrive.
2. Students are required to use their assigned bus stop each day.
3. Students are to respect the property at the bus stop and behave orderly while waiting for the bus. As the bus arrives, students must stand in a single file line, stand at least twelve (12) feet back from the bus door, and not move toward the bus until it has come to a complete stop and the driver has opened the bus door. Student conduct at the bus stop should be the same as required on school grounds. Actions such as littering, spitting, throwing any object, vandalism, pushing, shoving, smoking, and harassment of others will not be tolerated.
4. As required by VC 22112, when students need to cross a street or private road upon which the school bus is stopped, the driver shall activate the flashing red light system. When safe to do so, the driver of the school bus is required by law to escort students in grades K through 8 across the street using a hand-held stop sign.
5. Students shall use seat belts and keep them fastened during the entire bus ride. Students must remain seated with a seatbelt on, while the bus is in motion. No exceptions.
6. The bus driver will determine the order of a student's entrance and seating aboard the bus. Once aboard the bus, students are to find their seats quickly and always remain seated facing front while the bus is in motion.

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7. Orderly behavior is required while aboard the bus. Abusive body contact (fighting, slapping, hitting, poking, shoving, etc.) is not permitted. Students are to talk quietly. Shouting, yelling, boisterous behavior, horseplay, profane language, obscene gestures, or any unnecessary noise may distract the attention of the driver and therefore is prohibited for the safety of all passengers.
8. Littering, vandalism, or throwing objects inside the bus or from inside the bus will not be permitted. Parents may be liable for any damages.
9. Students must keep all body parts inside the bus.
10. Eating, drinking, smoking/vaping, and gum-chewing are not allowed on the bus.
11. Animals (mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, insects, etc.), unprotected glass containers, aerosol cans of any type, matches, lighters, dangerous objects such as knives, scissors, guns, or alcoholic beverages and drugs may NOT be carried aboard the bus.
12. Students must not block the aisle or emergency exits with their body or personal belongings.
13. Students may bring electronic devices onto the bus only if those items are permitted at school. Students may use cellular phones or similar devices only if they do not disrupt the safe operation of the school bus.
14. All TK-12 students transported in a school bus or school activity bus shall be instructed in school bus emergency and safety procedures once per school year.
15. Students must observe safe walking habits and be alert for traffic on their way to and from their bus stop.
16. The **"DANGER ZONE"** is the space around the school bus. It radiates out from the school bus by 12 feet. The school bus driver cannot see students in these zones. Students are to move away from the bus door quickly and stay clear of the **"DANGER ZONE."**



## **Transportation Bus Riders Discipline Procedures**

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To maintain a safe and reliable transportation program, students are required to follow safety procedures and rules. Students who do not follow the procedures shall be warned verbally for the first infraction unless it is unusually severe. Normally, bus drivers verbally warn students about any misbehavior. Another tool at the bus driver's disposal is to assign seats for any misbehaving student. If a student's behavior does not improve, further steps are taken to ensure compliance. Bus drivers will document student misconduct on a Bus Conduct Report which is provided to the school administration team. Students receiving misconduct reports will receive consequences listed below:

**First Offense:** Student will be called into the school office and will be counseled and cautioned about his/her unsatisfactory behavior. The Bus Conduct Report must be signed by a parent and returned to the school.

**Second Offense:** Student will be called into the school office. Parents will be called and informed of the student's unacceptable behavior. They will further be informed that the student's bus transportation privilege may be suspended for a period of time with future offenses. The Bus Conduct Report must be signed by a parent and returned to the school.

**Third Offense:** Parent(s) will be notified. Transportation privileges may be suspended. The duration of transportation suspension will be at the discretion of the school administrators and depend on the misconduct's severity. The Bus Conduct Report must be signed by a parent and returned to the school.

**After Third Offense or for severe offenses,** consequences may result in transportation privileges being revoked for the rest of the semester.

**If student's bus privileges are suspended on one bus, that suspension will be for all buses to and from school (except field trips).**

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## **Bus Safety Regulations**

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If unsafe driving conditions exist that could endanger the passengers, the driver, or the equipment, transportation will cease until such conditions improve. Vehicle Code 34501.6 states: The governing board of a local educational agency that provides transportation of pupils 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.

California Vehicle Code 22406 specifies a maximum speed of 55 miles per hour for any vehicle that transports school pupils. This and other regulations concerning speed restrictions must be adhered to.

In accordance with Education Code § 39831.3(a)(4) and S.B. 1072, the District deploys the following departmental policy to ensure students are not left unattended on a school bus. After each run all drivers will 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. Drivers will press the Child Check deactivation button located at the rear of the bus by the back window.