The Paradise Unified School District

School Bus

2026-27



Transportation Safety Plan

2026-27

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PARADISE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (PUSD),

TRANSPORTATION MISSION STATEMENT

Our main purpose is to safely transport students to and from school including activity trips.

We are dedicated to providing a safe, supportive and predictable social environment.

We serve the community by providing a consistent mode of transportation.

CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE – 39831.3; Transportation Safety Plan

(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 (d) of section 22112 of the Vehicle Code.

(2)(A) Procedures for all pupils in transitional 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.

(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 purposes 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) Procedures and standards for designating an adult chaperone, other than the driver, to accompany pupils on a school pupil activity bus.

(b) 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.

Walking To and From School Bus Stops

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to insure their students arrive safely at the assigned bus stop and are ready to load the bus 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time of the route.

It is recommended that parents/guardians make arrangements to receive students when they are returned to their bus stop at the end of the day.

Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to develop a plan to ensure their student/s arrives safely home at the end of the day.

a. Go directly to and from the bus stop.
b. Plan the safest route with the fewest streets to cross.
c. If possible cross streets at corners, using crosswalks if available. Look in all directions before crossing, and when safe, walk across the street. Always obey traffic signals.
d. Do not run out in the street from between parked cars or shrubbery.
e. Walk to and from school bus stops out of the roadway facing traffic.
f. Never accept a ride from a stranger.
g. Leave home early enough so you do not have to run to catch your bus.

The safe loading and unloading of students is our main concern. Therefore, students should be cautious with the walking route chosen to get to the school bus stop. Pupils should stay on sidewalks and walking paths while approaching and leaving school bus stops. Students shall wear safe clothing that is visible in hours of darkness.

Pupils shall wait at school bus stops in an orderly manner, remain in safe loading areas, and remain in loading area until the driver opens the entrance doors and orders pupils to approach the school bus.

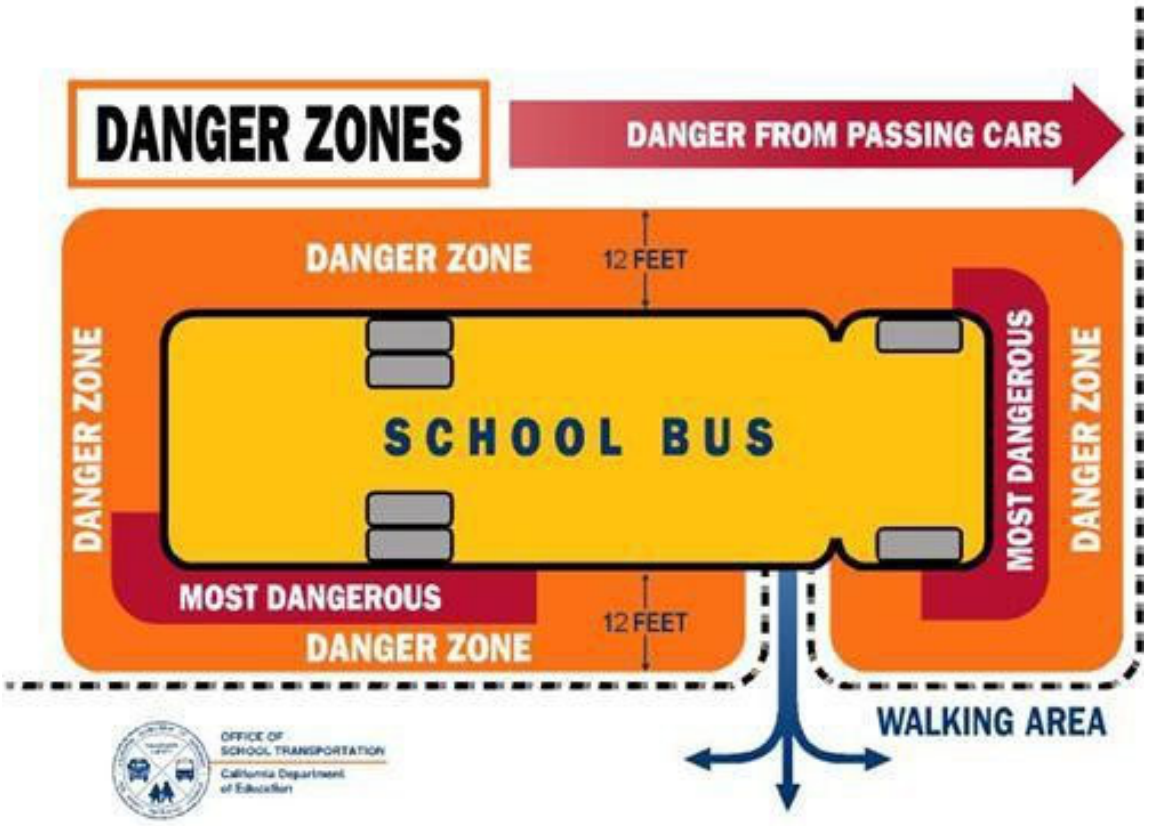
Each student on a school bus must behave in a satisfactory manner in order for the driver t o remain alert to the many hazards of driving. The safety of all students is of primary importance; a student who behaves in an unsatisfactory manner may be denied transportation. Students' conduct at school bus loading zones and school bus stops must be satisfactory (no horseplay allowed) to allow for the safe loading and unloading at these locations.

Parent reinforcement of these regulations will help considerably in maintaining a high level of safety and a low level of disciplinary problems.

Parents/Guardians may be responsible for any damage to vehicles or property caused directly by their students.

School Bus Danger Zone

School busses are large commercial vehicles and are difficult to see around because of their size; therefore, they create blind spots where children may be present. Understanding the 12 foot danger zone area around the bus helps keep our children safe. Children should never go under or in front of the bus. Children should store items inside a backpack where they are less likely to be dropped under the bus. If any child needs to cross the roadway in which the bus is traveling upon, the driver shall escort the pupil across the roadway. Always slow your vehicle when you are around a school bus and stop when the red lights are flashing. Flashing amber lights on the school bus is a warning to slow down and stop for the subsequent red light flashing signal system on the school bus.



SAFE LOADING AND UNLOADING PROCEDURES

Procedures for all pupils to follow as they board and exit the appropriate school bus at schools, school bus stops, or trip destinations.

- Pupils shall follow the instructions of the school bus driver, who is in charge at all times.
- Pupils shall board and exit the school bus only at bus stops designated by the school district Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.
- Pupils shall not approach the school bus to board it, or leave their seats to exit it, until the bus comes to a complete stop and the front entrance door has been opened.
- Pupils shall board and exit the school bus in an orderly manner.
- Pupils who require escort pursuant to section 22112 of the Vehicle Code shall:
  - Wait for the bus driver to exit the bus first.
  - After exiting the bus, cross the roadway only when the bus driver tells them it is safe to do so.
  - Walk straight across the roadway between the bus driver and the front of the bus.
  - After crossing, stay clear of the roadway.
- Pupils who do not require escort pursuant to section 22112 of the Vehicle Code shall:
  - In an orderly manner, immediately leave the vicinity of the school bus.
  - Stay clear of the roadways.

Procedures for all drivers to follow as they board and exit the appropriate school bus at schools, school bus stops, or trip destinations.

- School bus drivers shall continuously monitor the safety of their school bus route and school bus stops and report any potential hazards so the route or bus stop can be reviewed for safety by the transportation coordinator or director.

- School bus drivers shall have authority (13 CCR 14103) of the pupils they transport and respond to any observed unsafe behaviors or conditions.

- School bus drivers shall use the flashing amber and red light signal system, as described in VC 22112, at all times the school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading and unloading, unless prohibited to do so as stated in VC 22112.

- School bus drivers shall walk the length of the bus to deactivate an alarm system before leaving the bus pursuant to SB 1072 to assure that no student is left on the bus unattended.

Determining if pupils require escort pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of section 22112 of the Vehicle Code.

- All students must be accounted for, by checking the student name on roster (route sheet), by bus pass, or by maintaining accurate counts.

- On route instructions, the District shall identify school bus stops where students may be required to be escorted pursuant to Section 22112 of the Vehicle Code. (We use an *) At such bus stops, the school bus driver shall determine which students require escort.

- School bus drivers shall ask pupils at every school bus stop where students are unloading from the school bus, "Does anybody need to cross the street at this school bus stop?" Each student being escorted across the street is required to cross under authority of the driver after unloading from the bus and crossing in front of the bus.

- School bus drivers shall escort all students who must cross the highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped. The driver shall use a hand held stop sign while escorting all students.

- School Bus drivers shall ensure all students who must cross the highway or private road upon which the school bus is stopped to walk in front of the bus as they cross.

- School bus drivers shall 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.

- Students transported by the Paradise Unified School District, grades pre-Kindergarten through the 12th grade, needing to cross the street on which the bus is stopped, shall be provided escort service at those locations where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or an official traffic control signal.

- The school bus crossing light system (Amber lights, red lights, and crossing arm, if equipped) shall be activated, as required, when the bus is stopped for the purpose of loading and unloading students if the school bus is parked on a highway or private road, unless under the direction of a traffic officer.

- The lights DO NOT allow students to cross the roadway or highway unless the driver has positioned themselves upon the roadway, ensured traffic has stopped and that the roadway is safe for pupils to cross, and the driver has verbally instructed pupils that it is safe to cross the roadway.

INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLBUS EMERGENCY PROCEDURE AND PASSENGER SAFETY, CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE - 39831.5

(a) All pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, in public or private school who are transported in a school bus or school pupil activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety. The county superintendent of schools, superintendent of the school district, or owner/operator of a private school, as applicable, shall ensure that the instruction is provided as follows:

(1) 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 transitional 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) A list of school bus stops near each pupil's home. (See/call the PUSD Transportation Department for this information)

(B) General rules of conduct at school bus loading zones. (See Below)

(C) Red light crossing instructions. (See Above)

(D) School bus danger zone. (See Above)

(E) Walking to and from school bus stops. (See Above)

(2) At least once in each school year, all pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, who receive home-to-school transportation shall receive safety instruction that includes, but is not limited to, proper loading and unloading procedures, including escorting by the driver, how to safely cross the street, highway, or private road, instruction on the use of passenger restraint systems, as described in paragraph (3), proper passenger conduct, bus evacuation, and location of emergency equipment.

(3) Instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit. As part of the instruction, pupils shall evacuate the school bus through emergency exit doors.

(3) Instruction on the use of passenger restraint systems, when a passenger restraint system is installed, shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(A) Proper fastening and release of the passenger restraint system.
(B) Acceptable placement of passenger restraint systems on pupils.
(C) Times at which the passenger restraint systems should be fastened and released.
(D) Acceptable placement of the passenger restraint systems when not in use.

(4) Prior to departure on a school activity trip, all pupils riding on a school bus or school pupil activity bus shall receive safety instruction that includes, but is not limited to, location of emergency exits, and location and use of emergency equipment. Instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit.

(b) The following information shall be documented each time the instruction is given:

(1) Name of school district, county office of education, or private school.
(2) Name and location of school.
(3) Date of instruction.
(4) Names of supervising adults.
(5) Number of pupils participating.
(6) Grade levels of pupils.
(7) Subjects covered in instruction.
(8) Amount of time taken for instruction.
(9) Bus driver's name.

(10) Bus number.

(11) Additional remarks.

The information recorded pursuant to this subdivision shall remain on file at the district or county office, or at the school, for one year from the date of the instruction, and shall be subject to inspection by the Department of the California Highway Patrol.

School Bus Rules

The PUSD Transportation Department has established rules and regulations for students riding school buses. The Transportation Department for the District needs your help to ensure that each student rider is transported safely and efficiently. You can begin by reading these rules and regulations and discussing them with your student.

The California Code of Regulations Title 5, Section 14103 states: "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 en-route between home and school or other destinations."

Rules of Conduct at the School Bus Stop

- Students will arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. If applicable, have your bus pass ready to show to the driver upon boarding the bus.
- Horseplay is not permitted at the bus stop. Respect other people's property; don't run or play in people's yards, climb on their trees, fences, or walls.
- Stay on the sidewalk at the bus stop. Wait completely off the road for the bus.
- Stand twelve (12) feet to the front of the bus as it pulls toward the curb. DO NOT approach the bus until the door has opened.
- Bus riders are encouraged to arrive at their bus stops, no earlier than five minutes before the scheduled time of pick-up. Students who arrive at bus stops too early often get bored and cause most behavior problems.

- Bus drivers will not depart pick up stops before the scheduled time. The clocks are set in our Transportation Department by satellite signal. Parents can set their clocks by accessing the internet (www. U.S.time.Org)

- The bus driver will make every effort to arrive at the bus stop at the schedule time for pick up. If the bus arrives early, the driver will wait until the schedule time before departing. In order to remain on schedule, the driver cannot wait at any stop beyond the schedule pick up time.

- Take home times are considered more flexible than pick up times, and it is possible that some students might be delivered to their stops earlier than scheduled. This could occur when a driver gains time by bypassing bus stops of absent students.

- Bus routes are written to allow students seven minutes to load the bus after school dismisses. In order to stay on schedule, the buses must depart the school on time.

- The bus driver has the authority to assign students to specific seats as deemed necessary.

- Bus drivers are required by law to load and discharge passengers only at authorized stops as listed on scheduled home-to-school or school-to home routes or other trip destinations.

- Please do not ask or expect a driver to stop at a location other than the student's assigned bus stop.

- Many special education students must be met by a responsible adult. If no one is available to meet the student, the bus driver completes the route and returns to the stop, takes the student back to school, or if necessary will take the student to the Police Department.

- High School, Middle and Junior High Students do not have to be met at their bus stops.

- However, if a student is hesitant or reluctant to get off the bus at his or her stop, the student will not be forced to get off. The student will then be returned to school and every attempt will be made to notify parent.

- Buses are not allowed to stop at any place other than a designated school bus stop. Parents should not flag down or drive in front of a bus in order to stop it.

- When necessary to cross the street, the school bus driver must escort the student and always cross in front of the bus. Wait for the driver's instructions.

- Respect the rights and property of others while at the bus stop and on the bus. Students defacing property at the bus stop or on the bus will be required to pay for damages and may lose bus riding privileges.

Rules of Conduct on the School Bus

- Students are to follow the instructions of the driver; no insolence or disrespect will be tolerated and will be subject to suspension of riding privileges. Do not use profane language, obscene gestures, or create distractions that may affect the driver's ability to operate the bus safely.

- Help keep the bus free of litter by not eating or drinking on the bus unless authorized by the driver.

- No student may ride a route or disembark at a bus stop other than their assigned route or bus stop without prior authorization. Arrangements must be made with the parent/guardian of the student wishing for an alternate route or stop. Such arrangements are to be processed through the Transportation Department before 1pm (12pm Wednesday) to ensure adequate notice to drivers and maintain student safety.

- Remain seated, facing forward with legs, feet and other objects clear of the aisle while the bus is in motion. Keep all parts of the body inside the bus at all times.

- Avoid all abusive body contact while at the bus stop and while on the bus. Fighting at the bus stop or on the bus is an automatic and immediate suspension of riding privileges.

- Remain quiet at railroad crossings.

- Littering public roadways is an unlawful offense, punishable by fines. Do not throw anything out of the bus windows.

- No tampering with the controls, emergency exits or other equipment on the bus or in any way endangers the safety of others.

- No pets, rodents, bugs, or animals of any kind may be on the bus.

- Hazardous or destructive objects of any kind (i.e. firearms, weapons, glass objects or containers, explosives, sharp or pointed objects, lighters or matches) will not be accepted for transportation.

- Any sporting equipment must be enclosed in a bag before boarding the bus. Emergency exits and aisles must be kept clear in case of emergency.

Discipline Process

Any student who breaks the rules and/or regulations of the Transportation Department may receive a "Behavior Incident Report" and may be denied transportation.

It is important to remember that pupils have responsibilities which they must meet if they are to retain the privilege of riding a school bus.

- **First Report** - Warning and notification of parent or guardian

- **Second Report** - 1-2 day suspension of transportation privileges and notification of parent or guardian

- **Third Report** –10 day suspension of transportation privileges (Transportation privileges may be denied for remainder of the school year and notification of parent and guardian)

* For cases of severe misconduct, students may be assigned additional discipline as determined by the superintendent's designee or school principal.

Foggy Day / Reduced Visibility, Vehicle Code 34501.6

School buses: Reduced Visibility

The governing board of a local educational agency that provides for the 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.

Foggy Day/ Smoke / Reduced Visibility, PUSD

Foggy or inclement weather may result in service delays or cancellations. By law, school buses are prohibited from traveling when there is less than 200 feet of visibility in each direction. Parents are advised to listen to or watch local television and radio stations for weather updates and service delays. You may also call our Transportation Office Line at (530) 872-6484 and for updates. Students should not stand at the bus stop longer than 30 minutes beyond the usual bus arrival time. Remember, while the sun may have broken through in your area, your bus may still be experiencing delays.

TRANSPORTING PASSENGERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The PUSD student support system is designed to help identify children with disabilities early. Identifying learning disabilities early helps parents and professionals teach students the skills, through special education (*EC* 56031), to overcome and/or cope with a disability.

When the IEP team determines that a child is eligible for special education, the parent and school staff will identify the student's proper placement, goals, and objectives to help identify annual progress. Related services are identified, and any special transportation services needed for the student to gain access to an education are written into the IEP. When transportation is identified in the IEP as a *related service*, school bus transportation is provided.

Once transportation is identified as a related service, our special education department submits transportation request forms. Then, transportation adds the student to a route within 3-5 working days, at which time transportation will contact parents in regard to student pick up and drop off times. Transportations services cannot be provided until transportation has been approved through the PUSD special education department.

Transporting students with special needs requires appropriate care and concern. Your student's success is dependent upon maintaining positive communication, cooperation, and collaboration between parents, teachers, and the school bus driver.
PUSD bus drivers give thought to their personal attitude and behavior and how they affect the people served. A driver's good attitude will affect behavior and become evident in the quality of service provided. Drivers reflect a positive attitude through their actions and their ability to socialize with students with disabilities.

The bus driver's participation in the student's education starts with getting to know each unique child. Such an action demonstrates care. Be sensitive in communications and

providing service to ensure students are not isolated or segregated or made to feel inferior or separate from people who do not need accommodation due to a disability.

The best way for us to understand your child and their needs is to communicate and collaborate with parents and teachers daily. A driver's ability to communicate with parents and teachers to better understand the home and school environment will help provide a positive and healthy bus environment and improve their transition from home to school.

Parental Responsibilities

Parental involvement is important for safe transportation in an environment conducive toward student achievement. Parental involvement helps drivers to make informed decisions on seating arrangements, routing changes, and providing support for the student's positive behavior. Parents have the responsibility to inform the transportation provider of their child's needs and any changes that would necessitate transportation to provide a consistent and safe level of service. The driver-parent relationship should be professional, friendly, and oriented toward acquiring a better understanding of the child. As a parent, you have the responsibility to:

- Understand transportation policy.
- Participate in your child's positive behavior support system.
- Participate in communicating rules and consequences.
- Participate in educating students of safety issues and loading and unloading.
- Communicate safety concerns to the driver, transportation officials, and school administration.
- Have children ready for transportation.
- Inform Transportation office of medications needing transportation.
- Inform bus drivers of changes in a student's medication.

- Inform transportation of any changes in the student's drop-off or pick-up time or location and the like.
- Maintain the wheelchair and other adaptive devices.
- Inform bus drivers of medical health considerations for their child.
- Provide bus drivers and transportation officials with emergency phone numbers.

Confidentiality Requirements

The IDEA (*34 CFR* 300.560) and the *Education Code* (*EC* 56347) require that information in the IEP (even if confidential) shall be made available to related service providers to transport students safely. School bus drivers are school officials who perform the IEP-mandated transportation-related service. Information on the handicapping condition, medical/health issues, and other personal characteristics is provided to transportation staff to assist in the orderly and safe transportation of a student protected by the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Transportation staff shall be trained regarding confidentiality requirements.

Bus drivers need to know about confidentiality requirements because they will have information about the students who ride the school bus. Having the students' emergency, medical, and behavioral information may affect the driver's ability to make informed decisions about transportation service.

Parents/guardians shall be required to provide pertinent information to the transportation department concerning the student's medical and physical condition. This information shall be handled as confidential under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

The Paradise Unified School District Transportation drivers shall receive training to safely transport each student. This training shall include, although is not limited to, first aid procedures and the operation of any and all necessary specialized equipment. (Wheelchairs, lifts, tie-downs, vest, etc.) Title 13 1229.

Pick-up and Drop-off Locations

The PUSD Transportation Department will route special needs buses to pick and drop off on the right side only. Therefore, no student will have to be escorted across the street. In the event an unforeseen circumstance should require a student to be escorted across the street, the driver shall comply with provisions of Vehicle Code 22112.

Parents should have students ready for AM pick up 5 minutes prior to the stop time. Students shall be at the school bus stop (usually in front of house on side walk curb), 5 minutes before stop time. Parents/Guardians shall not leave children unattended at the stop unless a waiver is submitted and approved by transportation.

Parent must notify transportation daily if students are not going to school because of illness or any other cause. If student does not ride the bus for three days, the school bus will cease servicing the stop until the parent/guardian calls transportation to restart services.

In the afternoon, when the school bus is dropping off students at home, parents must be present at the drop off time or students may be dropped off back at the school location, and parents/guardians will have arrange for transportation home. The school bus driver shall not leave children unattended at the stop unless a waiver is submitted and approved by transportation.

The transportation department must have parent approval and contact information of all adults or family members who are approved to receive the child should the parent not be available.

Parents shall notify the transportation department immediately upon changing contact or emergency contact information. Also, plan in advance if you will be moving or if your child will be using adaptive equipment so that your child does not have an interruption in transportation services.

Routing and Ride Times

The PUSD routes students in the most cost effective means for fuel consumption and total length of route time. Students may have early AM pick up times, even as early as 6:00 AM. As well, some students may have late drop off times, sometimes as late as 4:30, or 5:00 PM, depending on school bell times, the amount of students and their destinations. We try to route students to experience a comfortable and timely trip from home to school. However, ride times can vary from 5 minutes to 2 hours depending on route configuration.

Loading and Unloading Zone Communication and Supervision

It's in the best interest of all to have as much supervision as possible in the school bus loading zones. We encourage communication and the development of rapport with your school bus driver. When students observe the school bus driver interacting with parents and school staff, it reinforces within the student that the school bus driver is a vital link between their home and school educational experience. Therefore, parents are encouraged to communicate with their school bus driver and must supervise students at the bus stops unless a waiver is submitted and approved by transportation.

Transporting Medications

The transportation of medications is not allowed on the school bus. Medications shall be transferred into the possession of the school nurse by the parent or guardian only.

Transporting Children in Wheelchairs

Students who need transportation while seated in a wheelchair, should be seated in a wheelchair that meets regulations stipulated in 13 CCR 1293. It is the parent-guardians responsibility to maintain the wheelchair in proper operating condition. Basically, the wheelchair must be in safe operating condition, have brakes that are operable and a restraining belt. There are many wheelchairs that are designed for transportation; these wheelchairs have been crash tested and approved for transportation in a vehicle. Most of these chairs meet what is called a WC-19 standard. It's recommended that students be transported in a wheelchair that has been crash tested and approved for transportation.

Title 13, CCR 1293, states: Wheelchairs shall be equipped as follows:

(1) Brakes and Restraining Belt. Wheelchairs shall be equipped with brakes and a restraining belt properly maintained by the owner of the chair. Electric wheelchairs transported on school buses shall be capable of being locked in gear when placed in a school bus or shall have an independent braking system capable of holding the wheelchair in place.

(2) Batteries. Batteries used to propel electric wheelchairs transported on school buses shall be both leak resistant and spill resistant or shall be placed in a leak resistant container. Batteries shall be secured to the wheelchair frame in such a manner as to prevent separation in the event of an accident.

Transporting Children in Safety Vests, Car Seat, and Support Systems

Some students benefit from using a safety vest or car seat while being transported in a school bus. Usually when a student needs extra support, a safety vest or car seat may be used. This is beneficial when a student needs additional physical or behavioral support. Please consult with transportation and the IEP team if requesting the use of a safety vest or car seat.

Driver-Parent-Teacher Communication

There is a direct link between a student's ability to communicate and a students' behavioral excess. When people have difficulty communicating, they tend to have frequent behavioral outbursts.

We encourage our drivers to communicate with parents and teachers to understand our student's needs. If drivers learn about behaviors and know when and where they are likely to happen, they can plan positive behavioral interventions to guide and help teach better behavior. As drivers develop trust with each student, they are more likely to communicate in a positive and proactive manner.

Transportation wants our drivers to collaborate and communicate with teachers and parents and understand each students home and school environments to help support and teach our children how to manage their own behaviors.

When drivers notice frequent student behavioral excesses on the bus, we ask them to ask the parents, teachers or administrators for information in regard to any changes in the school or home environment that may be causing behavioral excesses. Cooperation and collaboration will assist the driver-parent-teacher relationship and assist in teaching the student how to communicate to get his or her needs fulfilled.

When a pattern of behavioral problems exist that may require a disciplinary measure, a warning citation is written and transportation will notify the teacher and parent. Subsequent behavioral excesses may result in suspension of bus privileges. Transportation attempts to work with both the parent and teacher prior to suspending students from the school bus service.

Our goal is to be proactive and to develop a means to eliminate challenging behaviors before they occur. The focus is on reinforcing positive behavior instead of punishing negative behavior. This approach is especially true when the student's behavior is related to a disability and can be anticipated and planned for in advance. Therefore drivers are trained to observe and understand problem behaviors, such as where they occur and what function they serve for the child.