



## School Bus Safety Rules and Guidelines

According to information from the National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the school transportation industry, school buses are among the safest forms of transportation in the nation. Their accident rate is about one-hundredth that of private passenger automobiles.

Stringent legal regulation and oversight, combined with impact-absorbing vehicle design, systematic vehicle maintenance/inspection, driver care, and Learner safety training, make school bus accident injuries comparatively rare. However, significant risks remain.

**Parents and Learners must play the lead role in reducing these risks.** The twin realities of school bus operation are that far more children are hurt outside of the bus than inside, and drivers have far less ability to control such external risks.

The State of California and SCVi have established rules and regulations for Learners riding school buses. **Learner compliance is essential.** Parents are asked to promote compliance by reading these rules and regulations and discussing them with their children.

California Code of Regulations Title 5, Section 14103(a) states that: "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 driver's authority 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."

School Zone Transportation is a third-party vendor and is responsible for all bus issues. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver may result in **disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or revocation of bus transportation.**

### General Key Rules

1. Demonstrate self-restraint, self-discipline, and common sense.
2. Obey all bus rules, as may be communicated by the driver, other bus company personnel, school personnel, school publications, school assemblies, and other means.
3. Follow all driver instructions, which may address behavior, seat selection, and other safety and welfare matters.
4. Demonstrate respect for the driver, fellow riders, bus stop neighbors, the bus, personal property, and overall safety.

### At the Stop

1. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure their Learners arrive safely at the assigned bus stops.
2. It is recommended that parents/guardians make arrangements to receive Learners when they are returned to their bus stops at the end of the day.
3. Learners may cross only to/from stops at signal-controlled intersections and in compliance with those signals.
4. For stops that are not at signal-controlled intersections, parents must provide for the safe transportation of Learners (1) to the side of the street on which the departure stop is located and (2) from the side of the street or which the return stop is located. **Additionally, we strongly encourage this practice at bus stops that are at signal-controlled intersections.**
5. Please do not seek pick-up or drop-off at any location other than an established stop except as requested in advance through the Transportation Safety Administrator and approved by the Administrator.
6. **Learners must arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before departure. Last-minute arrivals create traffic hazards, pedestrian risks, and schedule delays.**



7. **Under no circumstances should a late rider or his/her parents try to flag down a bus that is departing or attempt to block its departure.**
8. Stand well back from the street.
9. Continue to stand back until the bus has arrived, stopped and opened its door.
10. Do not play or rough house, as this could drive a Learner into the traffic flow.
11. Respect fellow riders, their property, the property of bus stop neighbors, and the tranquility of the neighborhood.

### On the Bus

1. *Seat belts are used upon taking a seat and should not be removed until the bus has stopped at its destination.*
2. **Remain in your seat, facing forward, for the duration of the trip.**
3. **NO standing or switching seats** once the bus is in motion
4. *Keep emergency exits and aisles clear at all times.*
5. *Respect the window boundary*
6. No body parts protruding
7. Do not throw items out the window
8. No shouting out the window
9. *Respect other riders' personal space:*
  1. No physical or verbal attacks.
  2. No taunts.
  3. No harassment.
  4. No bullying.
7. *Do not disrupt the driver with your voice or actions.*
8. *No loud music*
9. *Do not tamper with bus controls, emergency exits or safety equipment.*
10. *Do not compromise the safety or well-being of others.*
10. *Do not bring hazardous or destructive objects (i.e. firearms, weapons, explosives, sharp or pointed objects, lighters, or matches) on the bus.*
11. *Do not write/draw on the seats or back of the seats*



## School Bus Terms and Conditions and Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement

1. I understand and agree with the School Bus Safety Rules and Guidelines, which I have discussed with my Learner(s).
2. I understand that violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action, suspension, and/or expulsion from bus services. I further understand that it is at the sole discretion of the bus service operator to suspend or expel a Learner from bus service.
3. I hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue SCVi, the Board, and its individual members, officers, agents, servants, or employees (hereinafter referred to as releasees) from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by my minor child(ren) or me, or any of the property belonging to me, as result of, or in any way arising out of my child(ren) traveling to and or from SCVi,
4. I voluntarily assume full responsibility for any risks of loss.
5. I further hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the releasees from any loss, liability, damage or costs due to my child(ren) traveling to and or from SCVi,
6. I hereby further agree that this Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the state of California.
7. In agreeing to this release, I acknowledge and represent that I have read the foregoing Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, understand it, and agree with it voluntarily as my own free act and deed.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Learner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Learner Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Learner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Learner Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Learner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Learner Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Learner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Learner Grade: \_\_\_\_\_