



# Helendale School District Transportation Plan

## **FIRST STUDENT - HELENDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PROVIDER**

**This plan was developed in consultation with First Student Transportation Service, CSJPA, and the Helendale School District.**

Helendale School District contracts with First Student to provide transportation for all TK-8 students. All students in TK-8 have access to transit to and from school daily. All TK-8 stops comply with board/school regulations for distance and safety. All our schools have buses dedicated to TK-8 age students, with minimal to no sharing of routes with upper-grade levels. No additional contracts are used to transport TK-8 students.

Helendale School District has regular input into the location and times of the routes for each TK-8 school. The school district and California Highway Patrol approve the final list before it is published to parents and families. Classified staff and school admin who oversee support for pupils with disabilities and homeless children and youth can contact First Student to consider an additional stop.

California Highway Patrol conducts annual safety inspections of each bus and keeps a file of each route. Buses are equipped to meet local and state air quality controls. Digital systems on each bus report air pollution and management factors, such as exhaust regeneration and idle time. All vans are smog in compliance with DMV registration and all large buses are smog annually to meet carb requirements. First Student uses clean air diesel in our Cumming engines. "First feedback" is a system that allows families to provide feedback, compliments, or complaints via the web and email. A local phone number is available to the public for any transportation-related issues or to check on the status of a route

### **Requisition transportation**

If a student is in need of transportation and is within our boundaries and within the scope of Regulation 3541 can request a bus stop be added within a responsible distance from their place of residence. The request can be made by contacting the district of their school site.

### **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY - HOME-TO-SCHOOL**

**Routes and Bus Stops:** Board policy (Regulation 3541: Transportation Routes And Services)

The Superintendent or designee shall design transportation routes and stops to promote the safety of students and maximum efficiency in the use of buses. Students who reside beyond the minimum transportation distance of 2.6 miles shall be eligible for transportation service to the school of their attendance area. The Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation within the walking distance when safety problems or hazards exist. The Superintendent or designee shall communicate in writing to parents/guardians regarding bus routes, schedules and stops and/or shall arrange for local media to publish such information.



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## Transportation Services

With the Board's authorization, transportation services may be provided or arranged by the District for:

Students traveling to and from school during the regular school day (Education Code 39800)

Field trips and excursions (Education Code 35330)

School activities, expositions or fairs, or other activities determined to be for the benefit of students (Education Code 39860)

District employees or parents/guardians traveling to and from educational activities authorized by the District (Education Code 39837.5)

The district shall provide home-to-school transportation and additional transportation services as needed for students with disabilities as specified in their individualized education programs.

(Education Code 41850, 20 USC 1400-1491, 34 CFR 104.4)

The district shall provide homeless students with transportation services comparable to those offered to other students at the school of attendance. (42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide transportation to homeless children in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation.

## **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY - STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AS DEFINED PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT**

The District desires to meet the transportation needs of students with disabilities and homeless children and youth as defined pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to enable them to benefit from special education and related services. Therefore, the District shall provide appropriate transportation services, at no cost, for a student when the district is the student's district of residence and the transportation services are required by his/her individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan. If the student is not within the district residency a meeting between the two LEA's with the Child's parent/guardian will determine the school and transportation plan that is in the best interest of the student at no cost.(Exhibit A)

## **TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS**

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students are required to have a designated person at the bus stop to receive them. However, parents of Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students may sign a waiver that allows the student to walk home unattended or to be picked up by someone else. This form may be obtained from your bus driver. All students in grades 1 through 12 do not need a designated person to receive them at the bus stop and will be dropped off without an adult there to meet them. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will be returned to their school of attendance if there is no one to receive the student at the bus stop. The parent will then be responsible for picking up the student(s) from the school site. Future transportation privileges may be suspended if a student is returned to school.

## **SCHEDULED PICK-UP TIMES**

All students should arrive at their bus stop no earlier than ten (10) minutes before the scheduled stop time. Students should be at their bus stop no later than five (5) minutes before their



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scheduled pick-up time. Since most buses are scheduled for more than one school, on-time departures are essential. Once the bus is in sight, students should line up and be ready to board.

## FIELD TRIPS

The District may provide transportation for students, employees, and other individuals for field trips and other school-related trips approved according to Board Policies and Administrative Regulations. School-related organizations requesting transportation shall be fully responsible for the costs of their trips. According to Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, the District Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation trips by private vehicles.

## AUTHORITY OF THE DRIVER

CCR Title 5 Section 14103 states: Pupils transported in a school bus or 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

## BUS RIDER RULES

Rules are in place to ensure the safe operation of a school bus. Parents/guardians of all students who ride a bus shall receive written safety information, including rider rules. Violation of the bus rider rules may result in the revocation of bus riding privileges.

## BUS CONDUCT

- Riders must wear seat belts at all times. Because school bus passengers' behavior can directly affect their safety and the safety of others, the following regulations apply at all times when students are riding a school bus, including school activity trips.
- Riders shall follow the instructions and directions of the bus driver at all times.
- Riders should arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled pick-up time and stand in a safe place to wait quietly for the bus.
- Riders shall enter the bus in an orderly manner and go directly to their seats.
- Riders shall remain seated while the bus is in motion and shall not obstruct the aisle with their legs, feet, or other objects.
- When reaching their destination, riders shall remain seated until the bus stops, and only then enter the aisle and go directly to the exit.
- Riders should be courteous to the driver and fellow passengers. 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 driver's attention and therefore is prohibited for the safety of all passengers.
- No part of the body, hands, arms, or head should be put out of the window.



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- Nothing shall be thrown from the bus. Riders shall help keep the bus and the area around the bus stop clean.
- Riders shall not damage or deface the bus or tamper with bus equipment.
- Animals, reptiles, or insects shall not be allowed on the bus.
- Glass containers or inflated balloons shall not be allowed on the bus.
- Riders should be alert for traffic when leaving the bus.
- No weapons, imitation firearms, or dangerous instruments shall be allowed on the bus.
- No drugs shall be used or carried on the bus.
- No use or possession of tobacco or any tobacco or nicotine product shall be allowed on the bus.

Riders who fail to comply with the above rules shall be reported to District staff, who shall determine the severity of the misconduct and take action accordingly. In the case of a severe violation or repeated offenses, the rider may be denied transportation for a period of time determined by the District staff, in accordance with District Policy, up to the remainder of the school year.

### USE OF VIDEO CAMERAS

Video cameras can be used on school buses to assist in the management of student behavior in accordance with District policies, rules, and regulations.

1. First offense after a warning: Three (3) days' suspension of bus riding privileges.
2. Second offense after a warning: Five (5) days' suspension of bus riding privileges.
3. Third offense after a warning: Ten (10) days' suspension of bus riding privileges.
4. Fourth offense after a warning: Thirty (30) days' suspension of bus riding privileges.
5. Fifth offense after a warning: Complete revocation of bus riding privileges.

### MAJOR OFFENSES:

For major offenses, indefinite suspension or complete loss of bus privileges may result from the first offense. Infractions of the following rules are major offenses:

- Failure to wear a seat belt.
- Open defiance or directing obscenities, profanities, or racial slurs at the bus driver.
- Fighting. (Fighting is automatic suspension for all participants regardless of fault).
- Failure to provide your name to the driver or giving a false name when asked.
- Engaging in any act that seriously jeopardizes the safety of anyone on the bus.
- Smoking – Vaping – anything - igniting any kind of flammable material or substance (lighters – matches, etc.)
- Bringing weapons - knives, guns, razors, laser pointers, nunchucks, (or look-alikes), etc. on the bus.
- Opening any emergency exit (except in an emergency) or exiting by any emergency exit or window.
- Bringing controlled substances - narcotics or other drugs, explosives, fireworks, or alcoholic beverages on the bus.
- Engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior or indecent exposure..



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## PERSONAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

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. The District and School Bus Contractor is not responsible for lost or damaged personal electronic equipment left on the bus.

## BUS STOP BEHAVIOR

Students at the bus stop are subject to the same rules as when riding the bus. Students identified as causing vandalism at the bus stop or disrupting the bus may lose their bus-riding privilege.

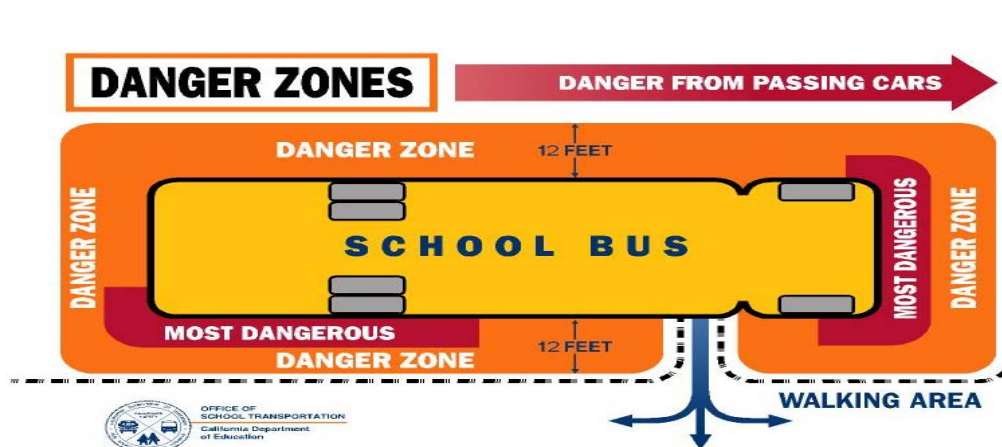
## BUS STOP SAFETY

School bus drivers will activate red flashing lights and stop signal arms at all bus stops where pupils are loading or unloading from a school bus with the following exceptions:

- school bus loading zones on or adjacent to school grounds
- during activity trips
- where the school bus is disabled
- where pupils require assistance to board or leave the school bus
- where the roadway surface is covered by snow and ice and requiring traffic to stop would create a hazard
- on a state highway with a posted speed of 55 mph or higher
- where the school bus is completely off the highway
- or any location determined by the District, with the approval of the California Highway Patrol, to present a traffic or safety hazard

## DANGER ZONES AROUND BUSES

Students are cautioned against entering the Danger Zone, which is the area twelve feet around the school bus. Students exiting the bus should remain in clear view of the bus driver. Students are expected to travel directly home from the bus stop.





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## **SAFE BUS OPERATIONS**

A bus driver is prohibited from driving a school bus while using a wireless telephone or other devices. A school bus shall not be operated whenever the number of passengers exceeds the bus seating capacity. No unauthorized person may enter a school bus. The District maintains a comprehensive transportation safety plan. Written safety information shall be provided to parents/guardians of all students who ride the bus. Emergency bus evacuation drills shall be conducted annually.

## **EXHIBIT A**

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/transportationmou.pdf>