



## **Chico Unified School District**

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999  
(530) 891-3000

**Administrative  
Regulation:**

**#3542**

**Section: 3000**

**Business and  
Noninstructional  
Operations  
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### **SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**

#### **School Bus Driver Authority and Responsibilities**

Students transported in a school bus or in a student activity bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus. The driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the students while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway or road.

A bus driver shall have the authority to discontinue the operation of a school bus whenever he/she determines that it is unsafe to continue.

Administrative regulations related to bus driver authority shall be made available to parents/guardians, students, teachers and other interested parties.

The bus driver is responsible for the safe and orderly conduct of students when they are being escorted across a roadway, loading/ unloading the bus and while riding on the bus. When students are to be escorted across a roadway, the driver will first ensure that it is safe to cross the roadway; then the driver will escort all students in Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 5 across the roadway. When being escorted across a roadway, students will be directed to cross in front of the bus, between the bus and the driver. The driver will make certain that all students have safely crossed the roadway before moving the bus. The bus driver need not escort students across a roadway when pedestrian traffic is controlled by a traffic signal.

To help ensure the safety and well being of each student, the bus driver will not require a student to leave the bus while in route between home and school or any other destination. Also, the bus driver will not make a bus stop when fog reduces visibility to less than 200 feet in the immediate area of the bus stop.

Drivers shall activate the flashing amber light warning system, if the bus is so equipped beginning 200 feet before any bus stop where students are loading or unloading. They shall operate the flashing red signal lights and stop signal arm at all times when the bus is stopped to load or unload students. The flashing amber warning lights, flashing red signal lights and stop signal arm shall not be operated at any other time, or at any place where traffic is controlled by a traffic officer.

The use of amber lights, red lights, and stop signal arms will not be required when loading or unloading special education students who are confined to wheelchairs or who are escorted to or from the school bus by a parent, their designee, or by a school official or who may require assistance to load or unload the school bus.

The flashing red signal lights and stop signal arm requirements shall not apply to locations identified by the Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the California Highway Patrol, as presenting a unique traffic hazard due to roadway design or proximity to an intersection.

When the bus is stopped on a highway or private road to load or unload students, and a traffic officer or official traffic control signal does not control traffic, the driver shall:

1. Check for approaching traffic in all directions and activate the flashing red light signal system and, if the bus is so equipped, the stop signal arm.
2. Before opening the door, ensure that the flashing red signal lights and stop signal arm are activated and that it is safe to exit the bus.
3. Escort all students who need to cross the highway or private road, using an approved hand-held "STOP" sign while doing so.
4. Require all students to walk in front of the bus as they cross the road or highway.



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5. Ensure that all students who need to cross the road or highway have crossed safely and that all other unloaded students and pedestrians are a safe distance from the bus before setting the bus in motion.

The bus driver will make verbal or written reports to the Transportation Foreman under the following circumstances:

1. Recurring and/or serious student misbehavior.
2. Parent and/or student complaints regarding transportation services.
3. Any traffic violation involving the driver's bus.
4. Any accident involving a student or District vehicle.
5. Repeated late school dismissals that cause transportation delays. The driver will also report such late school dismissals to the school principal.
6. Any incident of a bus overload.
7. Mechanical or other problems with buses and equipment.

### **Qualifications, Training and Monitoring**

All drivers employed to operate school buses or student activity buses shall possess, at a minimum, both of the following documents issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles:

1. A valid driver's license for the appropriate class of vehicle to be driven.
2. A certificate that permits the driver to operate either school buses or student activity buses, as applicable.

School bus drivers shall be subject to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with Governing Board policy and the requirements of federal law.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Department of Motor Vehicles within five (5) days whenever any school bus driver has tested positive for drugs or alcohol, is dismissed for a cause related to student transportation safety, or whenever a driver so dismissed has been reinstated.