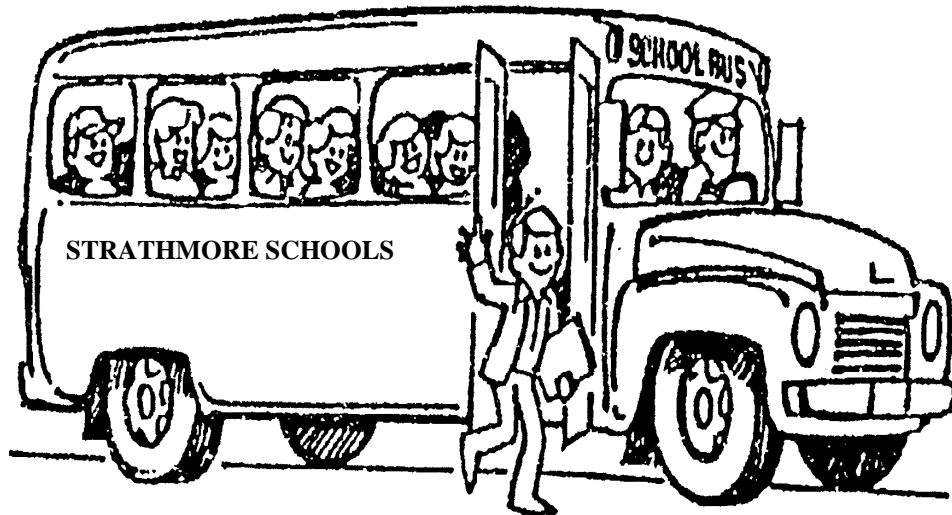


**Strathmore Union Elementary
School District**

School Bus Safety

(revised June 2010)



Strathmore Union Elementary School District

Director of Transportation

Ed Tucker

Administration

Dr. Shelly Long
District Superintendent

Travis Brown
Principal, Elementary School

Evelyn Erquhart
Principal, Middle School

Merri Larson
Business Manager

Board of Education

Jim Shropshire
Patty Crocker
Michael Noell
Tracy Tucker
Adele Sanchez

Strathmore Union Elementary School District

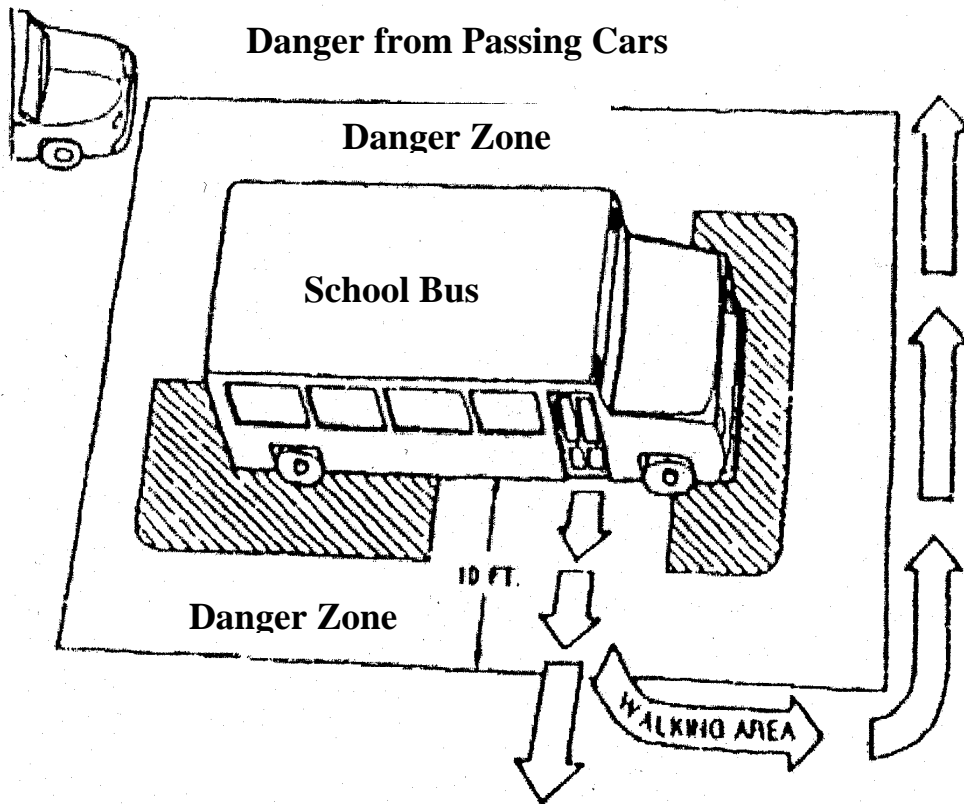
STRATHMORE UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
PHILOSOPHY

The Strathmore Union Elementary School District Transportation Department is committed to meeting the needs of the Strathmore Union Elementary School District by effectively performing professional and efficient service to the students, parents and district employees with respect and in a timely manner.

The Transportation Department will consistently maintain this support and at the same time, meet all of the legal requirements mandated by local, State, and Federal agencies with regards to safety, financial time lines, and contractual agreements.

It is the policy of the Strathmore Union Elementary School District Transportation Department to provide safe and dependable transportation to all of the students who qualify for transportation services in the district.

Where is the School Bus Danger Zone?



School Bus Danger Zones

Strathmore Union Elementary School District

BUS RULES

Students transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of, and be responsible directly to, the driver of the bus. 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. The bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus en route between home and school or other destination (California Code of Regulation, Title V, Section 14103).

All Passengers Must:

- 1) Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- 2) Refrain from unnecessary noise. No singing, whistling or loud conversation or boisterous conduct.
- 3) Keep all parts of the body inside the bus.
- 4) Be courteous to other passengers and follow the driver's instructions at all times.
- 5) Enter and depart only at assigned bus stops.
- 6) Students should sit properly in their seats facing the front of the bus.
- 7) Each student is responsible for his/her property.
- 8) Students who ride the bus regularly to and from school must load and unload at the same bus stop on the same bus unless special permission has been granted.

Passengers May Not:

- 1) Eat or drink at any time while on the bus.
- 2) Use profanity.
- 3) Wear shoes with cleats or spikes.
- 4) Carry hazardous articles or weapons.
- 5) Bring animals or pets on the bus.
- 6) Carry glass or fragile items on the bus.
- 7) Chew gum.
- 8) Throw things in the bus or out bus windows.
- 9) Reach out or lean out of windows. The decision of the driver is FINAL if there is a question about the window placements.
- 10) Continually adjust windows.
- 11) Swing, crowd or shove in seats while the bus turns.
- 12) Engage in horseplay with other students' property.
- 13) Ride the bus to or from school if they are not a regularly scheduled rider. Prior arrangements must be made between parents and school.
- 14) Bring industrial art projects, inflated balloons, or musical instruments which are too large to carry on a student's lap.
- 15) Walk between buses while buses are preparing to load passengers.

Disciplinary Procedures:

- 1) Students violating the above could lose their bus privilege.
- 2) Bus violators will be warned by the driver. If the warning is not heeded, the driver will put the student on report to the principal.
- 3) A student may be temporarily suspended from riding the bus, and parents will be notified.
- 4) A student who continues to violate bus conduct may be suspended from riding the bus for an indefinite period of time.

Routes and Services

Students who reside beyond the minimum transportation distances below shall be eligible for transportation service to the school of their attendance area:

Grades K-3	3/4 mile
Grades 4-8	1 mile

The Superintendent or designee may authorize transportation within the walking distance when safety problems or hazards exist.

Student Instruction

All students who are transported in a school bus or student activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety. Before departing on a school activity trip, all students riding on a school bus or student activity bus shall receive safety instruction which includes, but is not limited to: (Education Code 38048)

- a. Location of emergency exits
- b. Location and use of emergency equipment

This instruction also may include responsibilities of passengers seated next to an emergency exit.

Video Surveillance

Cameras are installed on buses for monitoring passengers for their safety.

Walking to and Waiting at the Bus Stop:

- 1) Student conduct at the bus stop should be the same as required on the school grounds. This means the students should not destroy shrubbery or personal property in the immediate area and they should not litter the ground with trash or papers.
- 2) Students should be at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the time the bus arrives and should be at least six to ten feet from where the bus will stop. Waiting passengers should not move toward the bus until it has come to a complete stop and the door has been opened.
- 3) There is to be no shoving or scuffling while boarding or waiting to board the bus. One hand should be free to use the handrail.
- 4) Waiting passengers should walk toward the bus in an orderly manner and board single file.
- 5) Passengers should be seated promptly and face the front of the bus. Passengers shall not leave their seats while the bus is in motion and should have no unnecessary conversation with the driver.
- 6) Passengers must board the bus at their designated bus stop only.
- 7) When walking to the bus stop use a designated safe walking route and always walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is provided, walk facing traffic (contact school site for safe walking route).
- 8) Never play while walking to or from the bus stop.
- 9) Never accept a ride to the bus stop from anyone you do not know.

Transportation by Private Vehicle

Private vehicles shall not be used to provide transportation for school-related trips. The school van will not be used for student transportation.

Unloading and Red Light Crossing:

One of the most dangerous times for a student and the school bus is during the time students are leaving the bus on the way home. These steps listed below should be followed at all times when leaving the bus.

- 1) Remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has set the parking brake and the door is opened.
- 2) There is to be no shoving or pushing. Students are not allowed to jump or skip steps when exiting the bus.
- 3) After leaving the bus, all students must move completely away from the bus and out of the danger zone (refer to page 4).
- 4) After the bus door is closed, do not return to get forgotten items.
- 5) Never cross the street behind the bus, only in front and only after the driver has given you the "OK".
- 6) If you must cross the street to get home, you must cross with the driver in front of the bus. Wait in front of the bus until the driver has stopped all traffic and has made sure that it is safe before you cross the street.
- 7) After you have crossed the street, NEVER return to the bus for items that were left on the bus, and NEVER re-cross the street to walk with a friend.
- 8) If you drop something (lunchbox, books, paper, etc.) and it falls under or near the bus, be sure to ask the driver before reaching under the bus. At no time shall a student attempt to retrieve any item from under the bus.

School Bus Signal and School Bus Stops

School bus stops light systems and procedures (California Vehicle Code Section 22112):

- a) On approach to a school bus stop where pupils are loading or unloading from a school bus, the driver of a school bus shall activate an approved flashing amber light warning system, if the bus is so equipped, beginning 200 feet before the bus stop. *The driver shall operate the flashing red signal lights and stop signal arm, as required on the school bus, at all times when the school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading and unloading pupils.*

The flashing red signal lights, amber warning lights, and stop signal arm system shall not be operated at any place where traffic is controlled by a traffic officer. The school bus flashing red signal lights, amber warning lights, and stop signal arm system shall not be operated at any other time.

- b) The driver shall stop to load or unload pupils only at a school bus stop designated for pupils by the school district superintendent for school activity trips.
- c) When a school bus is stopped on a highway or private road for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or official traffic control signal, the driver shall do all of the following:
 - 1) Check for approaching traffic in all directions and activate the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm, as defined in Section 25257, if equipped with a 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 school bus.
 - 3) Escort all pupils kindergarten through 8th grade students who need to cross the highway or private road. The driver shall use an approved hand-held "STOP" sign while escorting pupils.

Strathmore Union Elementary School District

- 4) Require all pupils to walk in front of the bus as they cross the highway or private road.
 - 5) Ensure that all pupils who need to cross the highway or private road have crossed safely, and that all other unloaded pupils and pedestrians are a safe distance from the bus and it is safe to move before setting the bus in motion.
- d) The flashing red signal lights and stop signal arm requirements imposed by subdivision (a) do not apply to locations identified by a school district, in consultation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol, that are determined to present a unique traffic hazard due to roadway design or proximity to an intersection, or where special education pupils are boarding or pupils may require assistance to board or unload the school bus or school pupil activity bus.

Drivers shall immediately report all school bus accidents to the California Highway Patrol, the Superintendent or designee, and the driver's employer. (Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 1219)

School bus drivers also shall report the following to the Superintendent or designee:

1. Recurring and serious student misbehavior
2. Parental and student complaints
3. Traffic violations
4. Consistently late school dismissals which cause transportation delays.
5. Overload runs
6. Mechanical or other problems with buses and equipment

Foggy Day Schedule

School bus operations shall be limited when atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to 200 feet or less during regular home-to-school transportation service. Bus drivers for school activity trips shall have the authority to discontinue bus operation whenever they determine that it is unsafe to continue operation because of reduced visibility. (Vehicle Code 34501.6)

We will check early each day during the foggy season to determine when it is absolutely not safe for bus transportation. If unsafe, we will contact **KTIP 1450 AM, KJUG 106.7 FM, 104.9 FM or 1270 AM** (radio), **Channel 30 and Channel 21** (television), giving them information concerning the length of the school bus delay.

The foggy day schedule involves only bus delays up to one hour. **SCHOOL WILL START AT THE REGULAR TIME EACH DAY.** In the past it has not been necessary to revise that to a two-hour delay. However, if an extreme condition exists, we would not hesitate to do so.

Adverse Driving Conditions

The Superintendent or designee may consult with the California Highway Patrol or appropriate weather service for information about road conditions and visibility. He/she shall suspend home-to-school transportation service whenever precipitation or atmospheric conditions reduce visibility on the roadway to 200 feet or less.
(cf. 3542 – School Bus Drivers)
(cf. 6118 – Weather-Related Schedules)