



SANTA CLARA UNIFIED SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES

Santa Clara Unified wants to ensure that your ride to and from school is a safe one. Please follow the simple rules listed below.

Waiting for the Bus

- Students are only allowed to get on and off the bus at the stop assigned by transportation based on the residency address on file with the district.
- Arrive at the bus stop, on the right side of the street, *5 minutes prior to* the scheduled departure time. Form a single line and be ready to board the bus.
- The published time is a *departure* time. The bus will not wait for students. If students are not at the stop at the schedule load time, parents will be responsible for transportation of their student.
- Be considerate of others, do not push, shove or throw objects. Wait quietly at the stop. Be respectful of the property around the bus stop.
- Wait for the bus in a straight line, in an area off the main roadway, at least 12 feet away from where the bus will stop. Stand back from the curb. Do not walk toward the bus while it is in motion.
- Never run to or from the bus. Make sure the bus comes to a full stop before you try to get on or off.
- Harassment, aggressive behavior, discriminatory or abusive language towards other persons, and fighting while waiting for the bus, is unsafe and prohibited. This type of behavior will result in an automatic suspension from the bus, up to loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.
- **NO LIVE ANIMALS, INSECTS or REPTILES OF ANY KIND WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE BUS AT ANY TIME.**
- **NO BALLOONS ARE ALLOWED ON THE BUS**
- **NO SKATEBOARDS OR SCOOTERS ARE ALLOWED ON THE BUS**

Boarding the Bus

- Students are only allowed to board the bus at their designated stop and must not get on at an alternate location without first obtaining prior permission from the Transportation Department
- Wait until your bus has come to a complete stop, the door is opened, and the red flashing lights and stop arm are activated *before* attempting to board the bus.
- Board the bus single file in an orderly manner, no pushing or shoving.
- Go directly to a seat and sit down.

While on the bus

- Follow the driver's instructions at all times.
- If bus is equipped with seatbelts, they **must** be worn at all times – **It's the law.**
- No hats or hoods are to be worn by students at any time while on the school bus.
- Face forward in seat with your back against the back of the seat and your bottom on the bottom of the seat and your backpack in your lap.
- Stay in your seat, talk **QUIETLY**, keep your hands to yourself, and *never* stick your hands or head out of the window.
- Bring only items that can be safely held on your lap without endangering the safety and comfort of others.

- Do not lower the windows more than half way down.
- Do not throw objects in the bus or out of the windows.
- Fighting, harassment, aggressive behavior, discriminatory or abusive language towards the driver or other persons on or off the, is unsafe and prohibited. This type of behaviors will result in an automatic suspension from the bus and potential loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.
- Smoking or chewing tobacco, including vaping and e-cigarettes, and possession of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited and will be cause for immediate suspension and potential loss of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.
- Do not eat, drink or chew gum on the bus. Spitting of any kind is not allowed on the bus. Keep the bus clean at all times. If you bring it with you, take it with you.
- Never write on, scratch, or in any way deface or vandalize bus or seats. Parents of students who damage or vandalize the bus will be held responsible for the cost of the repairs to the bus.
- Treat the bus seats as you would valuable furniture in your home. Never write on or in any way deface or vandalize the bus or seats. Students who damage the bus seat will be held responsible for the costs of repair of the seats.

Leaving the Bus

- Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Leave the bus in an orderly manner row by row from the front first, no pushing or shoving.
- Students are only allowed to get off the bus at their designated stop and must not get off at an alternate stop without first obtaining permission for the Transportation Department.
- Never walk along the side or in back of the bus.
- Students are NOT to cross the street that the bus is stopped on unless it is an authorized crossover bus stop.
- If you need to cross the street that the bus is stopped on, you MUST cross in front of the bus with the driver.
- Adults should arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled drop off time. They should be standing in an area off the main roadway at least 12 feet away from where the bus will stop. Stand back from the curb.
- Kindergarten students must be received at their designated stop by an adult (18 years old or older). An adult designee may be chosen by the parent/guardian and must be approved and on file with the school the student attends. Students not received will be returned to school. Older students uncomfortable disembarking from the bus without being received by an adult may request the driver to return them to school.
- Students returned to school more than three (3) times, may have their bus privileges suspended or revoked.

Consequences – Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right!

- Refusing to obey the driver, fighting, and refusing to properly identify yourself to the driver could result in an automatic loss of bus privileges. In essence, there will be no warning for this type of behavior.
- Other behaviors may result in a verbal warning, written citation, assigned seat, or suspension from the bus.