

## SCHOOLBUS DRIVERS

### Authority

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. (5 CCR [14103](#))

(cf. [3540](#) - Transportation)

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. (5 CCR [14103](#))

(cf. [3516.5](#) - Emergency Schedules)

(cf. [3543](#) - Transportation Safety and Emergencies)

(cf. [5131.1](#) - Bus Conduct)

### 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: (Education Code [39830.1](#); Vehicle Code [12517](#))

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

(cf. [4200](#) - Classified Personnel)

(cf. [4211](#) - Recruitment and Selection)

The Superintendent or designee may use an electronic fingerprinting system, managed by the California Department of Justice, to fingerprint an applicant for an original certificate to drive a school bus or student activity bus. (Vehicle Code [12517.3](#))

(cf. [4212.5](#) - Criminal Record Check)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that school bus drivers receive training that includes:

1. First aid practices (Vehicle Code [12522](#))

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2. The proper actions to be taken in the event that a school bus is hijacked (Education Code [39831](#))
3. The proper installation of mobile seating devices in the bus securement systems (Education Code [56195.8](#))

(cf. [3541.2](#) - Transportation for Students with Disabilities)

(cf. [4231](#) - Staff Development)

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

(cf. [4112.42](#)/[4212.42](#)/[4312.42](#) - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the Department of Motor Vehicles within five 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. (Vehicle Code [1808.8](#), [13376](#))

(cf. [4215](#) - Evaluation/Supervision)

(cf. [4218](#) - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

### **Responsibilities**

The school bus driver's primary responsibility is to safely transport students to and from school and school activities. He/she shall follow procedures contained in the District's transportation safety plan.

The driver shall not require any student to leave the bus en route between home and school or other destinations. (5 CCR [14103](#))

The driver shall stop to load or unload students only at school bus stops designated by the Superintendent or designee, or authorized by the Superintendent or designee for school activity trips. (Vehicle Code [22112](#))

(cf. [3541](#) - Transportation Routes and Services)

The driver shall activate the amber warning light system, flashing red signal lights and stop arm signal and shall escort students in accordance with Vehicle Code [22112](#).

The driver shall immediately report all school bus accidents to the California Highway Patrol, the Superintendent or designee, and the driver's employer. (13 CCR 1219)

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The driver 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

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[39830-39842](#) School buses

[40080-40090.5](#) Training required to obtain or renew bus driver certificate

[45125.1](#) Criminal background checks for contractors

[56195.8](#) Training in installation of mobile seating devices

PENAL CODE

[241.3](#) Assault against school bus driver

[243.3](#) Battery against school bus driver

VEHICLE CODE

[1808.8](#) Dismissal for safety-related cause

[2570-2575](#) Transportation of students

[12517-12517.4](#) Certification requirements

[12522](#) First aid training for school bus drivers

[13376](#) Driver certificates; revocation or suspension; sex offense prosecution

[22112](#) School bus signals; roadway crossings

[25257](#) School bus; flashing light signal system

[25257.2](#) School bus used for transportation of developmentally disabled person

[34501.6](#) School buses; reduced visibility

[34508.5](#) Investigation of accidents

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

[14103](#) Authority of the driver

[14104](#) School bus driver instructor

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

1200-1228 General provisions, school bus regulations

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 49

[571.222](#) Federal motor vehicle safety standard #222

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Highway Patrol: <http://www.chp.ca.gov>

California Department of Motor Vehicles: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov>

California Department of Justice: <http://caag.state.ca.us>

# Salinas Union High School District

Business

Regulation #3542

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## **SCHOOLBUS DRIVERS**

Issued: 2/10/84

Renumbered from AR 3541.22: 6/5/90

Revised: 3/18/91