

6. Home to School Transportation

6.1. District Buses

Policy: Home to school bus transportation is provided within attendance zones to all elementary school students who live beyond a one and one-half (1½) mile walk boundary. Some transportation is also provided to certain Special Education students. Parents who wish to enroll their students in a school outside of their attendance zone must provide their own transportation. The District does not provide regular home to school transportation for middle school or high school students. In the interest of safety, it's important that students use only their designated bus stop.

Conduct: The Transportation Department is dedicated to providing courteous and professional service and to ensuring the safety of all students. Parents are requested to review these rules with their children. A clear understanding of the rules and support from families will help the District provide a safe ride for all students.

- Cooperate with the driver.
- Talk quietly and respectfully to each other and to the driver.
- Enter and exit the bus in an orderly fashion.
- Stay in your seat.
- Keep the aisles clear at all times.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Do not hit, hurt or bother any other student; do not fight.
- Do not throw anything on the bus, at the bus, or out of the bus.
- Do not put arms, hands, head, or any other body part outside the window.
- Do not eat on the bus.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Do not damage the bus or tamper with bus equipment.
- Do not bring pets or any other animals on the bus. Exception: Guide, Service or Signal Dogs.
- The use of all tobacco containing products is prohibited.

6.2. Discipline Process

Drivers will discuss the bus rules and other safe riding practices, including instruction in the required emergency procedures. When discipline problems occur on the bus, drivers will discuss these issues with a supervisor and when possible, attempts will be made to call the parent or guardian. The drivers may also discuss the problem with site staff.

Certain serious offenses, including fighting, injury to others, serious disregard for safety, disrespectful behavior toward the bus driver, destruction of district property, etc. may result in an automatic suspension of bus riding privileges after one incident. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the bus driver shall be a sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. (5 CCR 14103)

For additional information regarding BUSD Transportation please call Tim Mull, Manager, at 644-6182.

6.3. Walking to School or the Bus Stop

Parents whose children walk to school or the bus stop are encouraged to do the following:

- Discuss the safest route to and from school or the bus stop.
- Map out the route selected.

- Walk the selected route with your child so that s/he can become familiar with it.
- Discuss the meanings of the traffic signals and markings along the route.
- Talk about why it is safer to cross at corners and to always use crosswalks.
- Help your child understand the importance of cooperating with police and crossing guards.
- Teach children to stop, look, and listen before crossing the street.
- Teach them to always walk across the street, to never run and to continue to look for vehicles.
- If your child has a good understanding of right and left, introduce him/her to the concept of looking left-right-left before crossing.
- Remind your child not to approach the vehicles of strangers for any reason.
- Encourage and praise your child for following guidelines for walking every day.
- Above all, set a good example for your children – their actions and attitudes are modeled after yours!

6.4. Bicycling

For BUSD students who are old enough and responsible enough, bicycling is a healthy way to get to school. It also minimizes pollution and negative environmental impacts.

Basic Bike Safety Principles

Below are five Basic Bike Safety Principles. Please be sure your children understand and apply these rules.

1. Pay attention—anticipate other people's actions.
2. Be visible—don't try to hide from cars. Wear bright colors; use lights and reflectors.
3. Learn to coexist with motorists and other road users.
4. Be predictable—let others know what you are doing.
5. Allow enough time—avoid rushing and making mistakes.

You can find a suitable bicycle route on the online map listed at: www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/transportation/Bicycling/bicycling.html or in the school office. In addition, some schools provide bicycle parking, such as secure bicycle cages and racks.

Additional Safety Measures

Children should master basic bicycling skills, e.g., steering, braking, stopping, balancing, and have some experience riding in normal on-street traffic, before bicycling to school. When bicycling to school, parents are encouraged to address the following:

1. Determine a safe route to the school by accompanying your children on bicycles. That way you can ensure that they are familiar with the routes and that they observe standard traffic safety rules and etiquette. Accompany children until you are confident that they are responsible enough to bicycle alone to school.
2. Make sure your child wears a properly fitted helmet in accordance with State Law. When accompanying your child, wear your own helmet.
3. To prevent theft or vandalism, seek secure parking spaces on school campus. For students at Berkeley High School, the Bike Station at the Downtown Berkeley BART station has free and secure parking. See www.bikestation.org/berkeley/index.asp

6.5. Driving Your Child to School

In November 1999, the BUSD school board adopted a resolution to reduce traffic congestion around our schools, thereby providing a safer environment for our students. In order to accomplish this, the Board encourages the use of alternative modes of travel, such as walking, bicycling, carpooling and mass transit. There are individualized school site traffic safety plans to help parents and students choose the best alternatives. Traffic plans are developed for each school site so that parents and neighbors know the bus routes and passenger loading areas for students. In order to improve safety for all of our students, please comply with these directions from your child's school concerning traffic flow, car parking, and drop-off zones.

The primary concern for school and district staff is that each child is safe at school and while traveling to and from school. Parents who drive their children to school should take extra precautions while operating vehicles near school grounds. The City of Berkeley has designated both bus loading zones and passenger-loading zones at most schools. These zones are designated primarily to ensure student safety. Vehicles must drop off and pick up children in the passenger-loading zone only. Passenger loading zones are not designated for parking at any time. Kindergarten parents are encouraged to park their cars at appropriate street parking and to walk children to the classroom.

The City of Berkeley Parking Enforcement Division will issue traffic citations to anyone not observing posted signs or practicing general safety procedures. Officers are posted at each school site on various days of the week to observe student drop off procedures. Citations will be issued for anyone:

- Parking in the red curb zone
- Parking on a sidewalk
- Double parking
- Illegally stopping or parking in the disabled zone

Officers taking license plate numbers issue citations automatically. Citations are then mailed to the address of the registered owner.