

Sequoia Union High School District

1090 Mills Way, REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA 94063

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DEWRELL WESLEY
Director of Transportation

Date: July 28, 2015
To: Parents / Guardians
From: Dewrell Wesley, Director of Transportation
Re: Safety Concern / Loading & Unloading Procedures

This letter is to inform and remind you of the safety steps that need to be followed at your child's school bus stop. First, you must be on time. Some Parents/Guardians are consistently arriving at the school bus stop late. The procedure for our driver is to activate the amber lights 200 feet prior to the school bus stop to warn the motoring public. Once the driver stops at the bus stop to load/unload the students, he/she will activate the flashing red light signal system and stop signal. The motoring public must stop and not pass the school bus during this process. These red lights must be activated and stay on when the school bus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils. Once these red lights are activated they will not be turned off until the driver is ready to depart.

The problem arises when parents/students are late to the stop and the driver has turned off the red lights and is ready to depart. By law the driver cannot re-activate the red lights, open the door, and let the students on the bus. This is causing a major safety concern for our department. Our drivers are being cut off in the middle of the roadway by parents/guardians to stop the bus for their child. This invasive action is dangerous and can cause a major accident. All of this can be prevented if the parents/students arrive at the school bus stop on time. This has caused our drivers to circle the block and reactivate the lights so they can be legal per vehicle code (VC) 22112. This additional procedure is causing the route to run late because of one or two parents/students. Drivers are now instructed not to circle the block for additional students that were late. They will continue to the next stop and run their route on time.

AM Routes:

The time listed on the manifest is the departure time for the bus driver. This means, parent/students should arrive at the school bus stop at least 5-10 minutes early and wait a safe distance away from the curb once the bus arrives. Drivers will stop the bus no closer than 12 feet from the students. No person shall move towards the bus unless the bus door is open.

PM Routes:

The time listed on the manifest is the arrival time for the bus driver. This means, parent/guardians should arrive at the school bus stop at least 5-10 minutes early and wait a safe distance away from the curb once the bus arrives. Drivers will stop the bus and activate the flashing red light signal system. The

driver has several procedures they must follow to ensure the students safety. If the student resides on the other side of the street the bus is stopped on, the driver must physically get out of their seat and escort their students across the street. Parents/Guardians that assist their students across the street shall also cross the street with the assistance of the red lights and school bus driver. Additionally, all parents/guardians that must meet their students at the school bus stop are required to come to the front door and receive their child from the school bus driver. Driver's will no longer release students to the parents that are sitting in their cars.

Please take the time to review these new procedures that will take place immediately. Remember these procedures are to help and ensure our students safety.

Sincerely,

Dewrell Wesley
Director, Transportation Services