

Transportation Goals

The goal of the Victor Elementary School District is to provide safe school bus transportation for as many students as possible, for as long as we can financially afford to do so. To accomplish this, we are continually reviewing and changing our transportation program to streamline it and keep it as economical as possible.

The major cost factor for transportation is contingent upon the number of students we transport. The Victor Elementary School District has designated a non-transportation area of a one-mile radius around each school site which helps us keep our costs within our budget. This one-mile limit became effective July, 6, 1992.

The other major factors are the number of buses we use and the length of time we have them on road. We control this by adjusting school bell times and reducing the number of stops, red-light crossings, turns, and loops a bus must travel to the absolute minimum.

We need your help! Your understanding and assistance in achieving these cost containments will allow us to continue the transportation program. Obviously we cannot provide door-to-door service. Be advised that your child's bus stop may be up to a half mile or more from his house and that a bus might come right by your house on its way to that stop. Whenever possible, the bus stops are designed to be in the center of the area for the students served by that stop.

This year we will be transporting approximately 4,000 students from our 16 school sites; requiring about 50 bus routes, each traveling approximately 60 miles per day.

Bus Safety Inspections

Our school buses are inspected each year by the California Highway Patrol and must be kept in excellent condition; otherwise, we are not allowed to use them to transport students.

Driver Training

All drivers receive continuous training and are required to have at least a minimum of 40 hours of classroom and behind-the-wheel training before certification. This training includes all laws and regulations pertaining to school buses (first aid, emergencies, and instruction in driving different types of buses). Each year, all drivers are required to attend in-service training for a minimum of 10 hours.

Student Training

In addition to this handbook, your child will receive classroom instruction in proper bus conduct. All students will participate in a drill for emergency bus evacuation at least once a year.

Who Is Eligible To Ride The Bus?

Current administrative regulations provide that students living more than 1 mile in a direct line to their school will be eligible for transportation. This would only include those residing within VESD boundaries.

How Will My Child Know Which Bus To Ride?

At the beginning of each school year all bus routes are published in the newspaper. These routes and stops are also available at each school site. We recommend that parents examine the bus schedule with their children, explaining which route and stop are to be used.

At the school sites, staff will assist in boarding the children to make sure they are on the correct bus. If a student is in doubt about their bus stop or bus (once they are on the bus) they should tell the driver immediately.

What About Emergencies On The Bus?

For student safety and route control, each bus is equipped with a two-way radio. The Transportation Department is in constant communication with each bus on its scheduled runs.

Bus Passes

Applications for bus passes may be obtained at the school site. Each child riding a Victor Elementary School District bus must present a valid bus pass when boarding the bus. Students not presenting their bus passes will be subject to the consequences for failing to comply with the bus rules which are included in this handbook. The bus stop name will appear on your child's bus pass. Students must board at that indicated stop.

Bus Passes Will Expire Each Year On June 30th

Applications to replace the expiring bus passes should be completed by June 13th of each year. Lost or illegible bus passes must be replaced. A replacement fee of \$5.00 will be charged.

Bad Weather

In case of adverse weather conditions, please tune your radio to your local stations KZXY 102.3 FM, KATJ 100.7 FM, KFRG 103.1 FM, FOX 106.5 FM, or KWRN 1550 AM. These stations will broadcast notification in the event of school closure or of different starting times.

What Do I Do If The Bus Doesn't Show Up On Time?

School buses have to endure the same traffic conditions as commuters. A traffic problem, road closure, or discipline problem can easily throw your bus 10 to 15 minutes off schedule. If after 15 minutes your bus still has not arrived, you may wish to call the Transportation Department at 951-5445. In any event, a bus will show up as soon as the problem is corrected.

What If Your Child Is A Kindergartener Or Special Ed Student?

If a designated person is required to pick up a child at their bus stop, they must always be there. If they are not present, the first instance will result in a written warning to the parent. On the second instance – the child will be brought back to their school and the police will be notified. On the third instance – the child will be brought back to their school and Child Protective Services will be informed.

What Is A Student's Responsibility?

It is important to understand that riding a school bus is a privilege and not a right of the student. This privilege can and will be revoked when serious misconduct occurs or when minor infractions occur repeatedly. Refusal of the District to provide transportation under these circumstances does not excuse parents from their responsibility of having their children in school each day.

Title 5 CAC Section 14203 State Law Reads:

PUPILS TRANSPORTED IN A SCHOOL BUS SHALL BE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF AND RESPONSIBLE TO THE DRIVER OF THE BUS. THE DRIVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF THE PUPILS WHILE THEY ARE ON THE BUS OR BEING ESCORTED ACROSS A STREET, HIGHWAY, OR ROAD. CONTINUED MISCONDUCT OR PERSISTENT REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE DRIVER SHALL BE SUFFICIENT REASON FOR A PUPIL TO BE DENIED TRANSPORTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DISTRICT.

Drivers will constantly strive to be fair and impartial in their treatment and disciplining of students.

Other Than Students, Who May Board A Bus?

Only district employees, peace officers, or authorized personnel may board a bus. Parents or persons seeking to board a bus SHALL get permission from the driver before boarding. **Unauthorized persons boarding a bus may be subject to legal prosecution.**

Rules Of Safe Conduct At The Bus – On The Bus

1. Be on the right-hand side of the roadway at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the bus arrives.
2. Be considerate of the property at and nearby the bus stop. Parents will be responsible for property destruction.
3. While at the bus stop, stand away from the roadway, wait quietly, and do not engage in horseplay.
 - (a) Wait until the bus has stopped completely and the door has opened before approaching the bus entrance.
 - (b) Board the bus in an orderly manner and find a seat quickly.
4. Remain seated facing the front of the bus.
5. No vulgar or profane language or gestures.
6. Talk in a quiet manner.
7. Do not bring animals or insects, caged or otherwise, onto the bus.
8. Do not bring dangerous objects such as knives, glass, guns, etc., onto the bus.
9. Do not throw or put anything out of the bus windows.
10. Remain silent at all railroad crossings.
11. Do not smoke or light matches.
12. Do not fight. – Fighting is defined as actual physical contact (for example: hitting, pulling hair, throwing objects at people to intentionally harm them) and will result in automatic suspension from the bus for **all** participants regardless of who may have instigated the incident.
13. Do not stand or change seats while the bus is in motion. Changing of seats is allowed only with permission or direction of the driver.
14. Do not yell or whistle.
15. Do not bring instruments or large boxes onto the bus.
16. Breaking of windows (any glass), cutting of seats, or any other damages to the bus will result in immediate revocation of bus privileges, until all damages have been paid for.
17. Leave the bus quietly and carefully. Keep away from the side of the bus as it departs.
18. If you must cross the street, do so in front of the bus with the assistance of the driver. Drivers are required to escort elementary students when crossing the street.
19. Student riding privileges may be revoked at his/her first offense without a first warning if the inappropriate behavior is serious enough.
20. A parent or guardian must be present to accept a kindergartener or special education student at the drop off location and time unless a release has been signed. Parents need to instruct kindergarteners to stay on the bus if no one is there.
21. No gum, food, or drink may be consumed on the bus.
22. **OBEY ALL THE DRIVER'S INSTRUCTIONS AT ALL TIMES.**
It would be extremely difficult if not impossible to develop a set of rules that are all inclusive. This being the case, we recognize that breaches of good discipline may occur which are not specifically covered here.

Consequences Of Improper Behavior

- 1st Ticket: Conduct report sent home with student. Parent is to sign copy and return it to the driver. For special ed students the first bus ticket will result in a warning.
- 2nd Ticket: Conduct report sent home with student. Parent must call the Transportation Department to discuss the student's behavior leading to the issuance of this ticket. For special ed students the second ticket will result in the child sitting up front for two weeks.
- 3rd Ticket: Conduct report sent home with student. Parent must call the Transportation Department to discuss the student's behavior leading to the issuance of this ticket. The student will receive a three-school day suspension from the bus. For special ed students the third ticket will result in the child sitting up front for one month.
- 4th Ticket: Conduct report sent home with student. Parent must call the Transportation Department to discuss the student's behavior leading to the issuance of this ticket. The student will receive a ten-school day suspension from the bus. For special ed students the fourth and beyond will be a one-day suspension from the bus.
- 5th Ticket: Mandatory conference with transportation supervisor, parent, student, and bus driver. Student and parent will be required to co-sign a behavior improvement contract. Violation of the contract may result in suspension of bus riding privileges for the balance of the school year.

Should the Transportation Department not receive the required call from a parent within two (2) days of the issuance of the conduct report, the Transportation Department will attempt to call the parent. If there is no answer or an agreement is not reached, the Transportation Department will send a letter indicating the misconduct and the date the suspension will start (three days after letter is sent). Bus drivers will not pick up students on indicated days. The Transportation Department will use the home phone number and address as listed on the bus pass application.

Where To Call

Victor Elementary School District transportation is operated by First Student. All communications regarding your Child's transportation should be directed to their office at (760) 951-5445.

VICTOR
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



STUDENT/PARENT
TRANSPORTATION HANDBOOK