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Alpine Union School District
"Where Children Come First"



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Dear Parents:

It is our desire to have good discipline on all of our school buses in order to insure safe travel. To accomplish this goal, an administrative policy has been adopted which outlines student behavior and recommended disciplinary actions for students who fail to cooperate. First and foremost, the safety of all pupils is our prime concern. Every pupil is entitled to a safe ride to and from school.

The California State Law reads as follows:

Regulations and Laws Relating to Pupil Transportation in California

Section 14263. AUTHORITY OF DRIVER. Pupils transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway or road. Continued disorderly conduct 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 regulations of the governing board of the district. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus en route between home and school or other destinations.

Parents are asked to discuss the following with their children:

1. Follow the directions of the bus driver the first time asked.
2. Refrain from loud, noisy boisterous conduct.
3. Do not throw anything in or from the bus.
4. Be courteous, use no profane language.
5. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
6. Do not chew gum on the bus.
7. Keep the bus clean. Do not litter.
8. Remain properly seated in your seat.
9. Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus and to yourself.
10. Appropriate behavior at the bus stop.
11. Do not be rude or disrespectful to the bus driver or any other person on the bus.
12. Electronic devices and hats are not allowed on the bus.

The bus driver will issue a ticket whenever a student's behavior has become unacceptable. The principal will notify parents, and take action according to the following guidelines:

- a. 1st Offense - Warning Notify Parents. Warning ticket will be issued by bus driver, with copy to school office.
- b. 2nd Offense - Bus ticket will be issued by principal and bus driver, and parent will be notified. 3 days suspension from bus by principal.
- c. 3rd Offense - Bus ticket will be issued by principal and bus driver. Mandatory conference with student, parent, bus driver and principal before transportation will resume. **5 days** suspension from bus by principal.
- d. 4th Offense - Bus ticket will be issued by principal and bus driver. Mandatory conference with student, parent, bus driver and principal before transportation will resume. **10 days** suspension from bus by principal.
- e. 5th Offense - Bus ticket will be issued by principal and bus driver. Mandatory conference with student, parent, bus driver, principal and Transportation Supervisor. **15 days** suspension from bus by principal.
- f. 6th Offense - **20 days** suspension from bus. Administrative Review - Superintendent or his/her designee, Principal, Transportation Supervisor and driver shall meet with parent and child to determine what disciplinary action shall be taken. Disciplinary action may include suspension from bus riding privileges for remainder of school year.
- g. **Serious Offense** - 1st occasion - If in the judgment of the bus driver and Transportation Supervisor, a student commits a serious offense on the first occasion, the bus driver may recommend immediate suspension. A serious offense is considered to be one where the safety and welfare of other students are in jeopardy, or property damage has resulted

"Suspension from the bus" means suspension from all buses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Pellegrino', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas V. Pellegrino
Superintendent

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES AND BEHAVIOR

Walking To and From School Bus Stops

Alpine Union School District recommends that

When walking to & from designated bus stops, students should be respectful of other people's property.

- * Walk off the roadway or as close to the edge of the roadway as possible
- * Check traffic carefully before crossing any roadway
- * Go directly to their designated school bus stop or home.
- * Wait for the bus driver to escort them across the street as described below, and
- * Not cause any destruction of private property.

LOADING

Students are required to be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives at the stop so there is no danger of them running to catch the bus. If a student is approaching the bus stop & sees

the bus already at the stop, he/she should not run to the stop. If the driver sees a student walking towards the bus, he/she will wait for them. If a student is on the opposite side of the street, he/she must wait there until the driver activates the red crossover lights, exits the bus, is in the proper position for escorting the pupil across the street & has given the student direction to cross the street. Students must cross the street between the driver & the front of the bus.

If a student is walking to a bus stop, but is too far away for the driver to see him/her, and/or is seen after the bus leaves the bus stop, the driver cannot stop & pick up the student. The bus can only stop at designated bus stops.

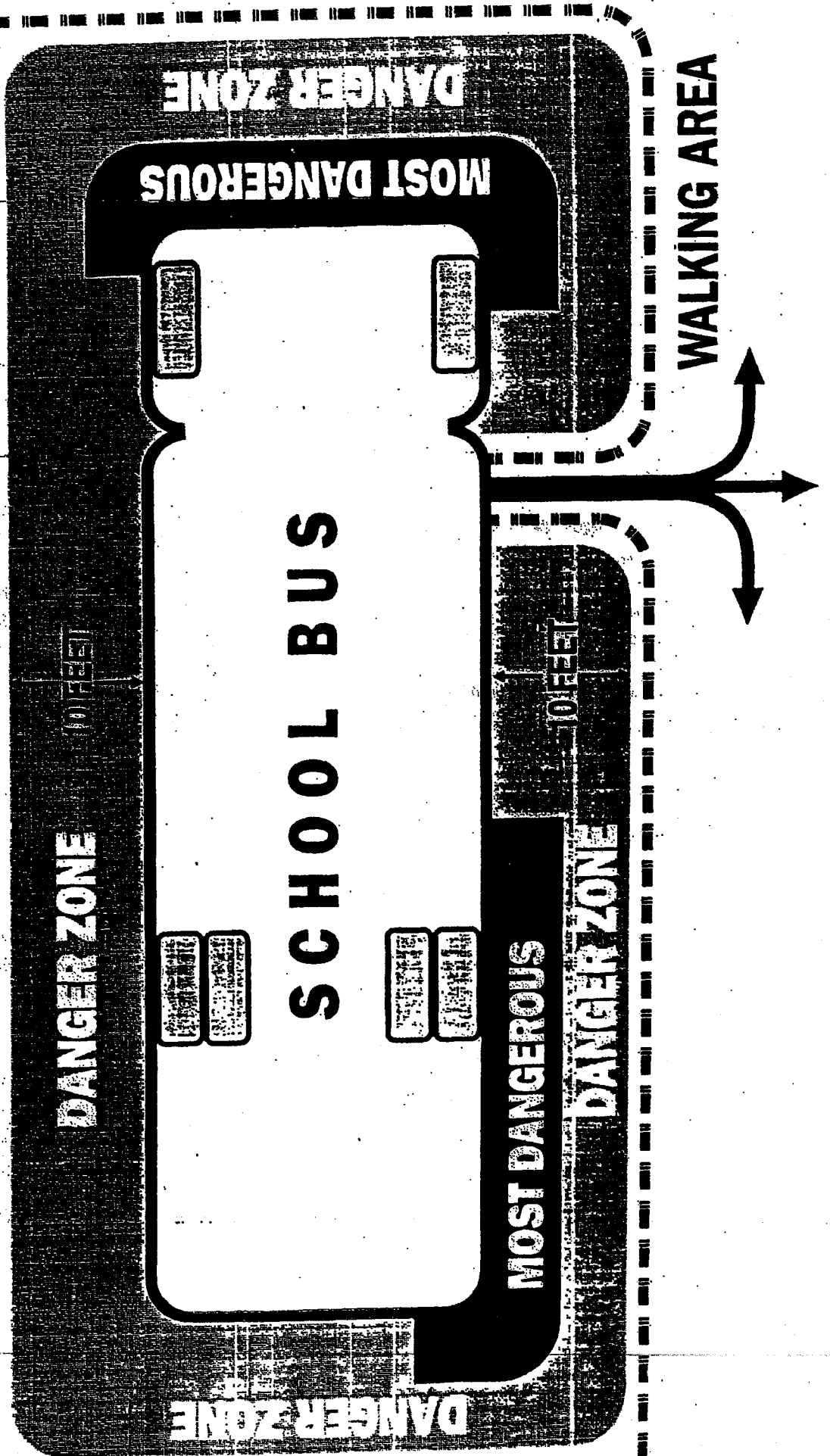
UNLOADING

When the bus reaches the bus stop, the student(s) must remain seated until the bus has come to a full stop, the parking brake is set, the door is opened & the student(s) are given the signal from the driver that it is safe to exit the bus. Students are to walk directly away from the bus & should not loiter around the bus stop area.

When there are students who must cross the street, there are certain procedures the law requires the driver & the student(s) to follow. The bus driver is required to do a "red light crossing" & escort all students in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. Student(s) will follow the driver off the bus & must wait on the sidewalk or side of the roadway until the driver instructs them to cross the street. Students are to cross between the front of the bus & the driver. It is important for them to walk & not run. Go directly across the street to the other side & do not stand in the street. It is the driver's responsibility to see that all students have completely & safely crossed the street.

DANGER ZONES

DANGER FROM PASSING CARS



BUS RULES AND REGULATIONS

To make our transportation system as safe as possible, it is mandatory for all students to comply with the following rules & regulations were established according to State regulations. The parent or guardian will be held responsible for the cost of repair or replacement of any damage to district property, plus any reward offered for information leading to the identification of the student or person that caused the damage.

Please discuss the following basic rules concerning school bus behavior.

1. Only normal conversation is allowed in the bus. Rude, discourteous & annoying conduct is prohibited at all times.
2. Everyone is to keep all parts of their body inside the bus.
3. Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion. The aisles are to remain clear & everyone is to face forward while sitting in seats.
4. Preparation for boarding & departing from the bus will take place after the bus has come to a complete stop & the door is opened.
5. Emergency doors are to be used only for intended purposes. Students must keep their hands off emergency equipment as this is to be used in case of an accident.
6. Physical contact such as slapping, hitting, poking, shoving, pulling hair, etc. in the bus or while at the bus stop is unacceptable.
7. To avoid accidents, NO glass articles, of any kind are allowed on the bus.
8. To prevent distracting the driver, live animals, reptiles or insects are prohibited.
9. All students who must cross the roadway on which the bus is stopped, must cross in front of the bus with the bus driver.
10. Eating, drinking & chewing gum is not permitted in the bus.
11. All students will refrain from using profane language, vulgar gestures, taunting & teasing.
12. Damage or defacing of the bus is prohibited. Objects are not to be thrown in, out or at the bus.
13. Students must not tamper with bus controls at any time.
14. Spitting is prohibited at all times.
15. Students are to ride the bus to their assigned bus stop only.
16. Students are to exercise proper behavior at the bus stop.
17. Tobacco, lighters, and/or matches are not allowed on the bus.
18. Students are to give accurate identification when requested by the bus driver.
19. Any behavior that endangers the life or limb of riders or the driver, or that creates an unsafe condition will not be tolerated.
20. The bus driver is in charge of the bus and all students will show respect to the driver of the bus.

Statistics show that most injuries & fatal accidents happen during the loading & unloading of the school bus. Children need to know that there is a "Danger Zone" around the bus where the driver cannot see them in their mirrors. This "Danger Zone" is ten feet wide & completely surrounds all sides of the bus. When the students know & follow the safe loading & unloading procedures they will create a much safer bus stop environment for all students & the bus driver.

General Rules of Conduct at School Bus Loading Zones

Student conduct at the bus stop should be the same as required on the school grounds. Actions such as littering, spitting, throwing any object, vandalism, pushing, shoving & harassment of others will not be tolerated. Students should be lined up in a single file line & ready to board when they see the bus approaching. Students should wait until the driver sets the parking brake & opens the door before moving towards the bus. The driver is responsible for the conduct of the students at the bus stops.

Safe Riding Practices

Some accidents are indirectly caused by students who distract the bus driver. Good student behavior while entering, riding, or exiting the bus contributes in many ways to safe transportation. Such conduct makes it possible for the driver to give full attention to the safe operation of the bus & hold those conditions that might cause pupils to be injured to a minimum.

Fighting on the bus, any movement out of the seats, excessive noise & boisterous conduct are examples of the things that are distracting to the driver. It is the students' responsibility to have good behavior on the bus. If they practice good behavior, it will make the ride on the bus safer for everyone.

Parent Responsibility

Parents are expected to have their children ready on time & to inform them that they are to maintain good behavior at the bus stop as well as on the bus. Parents that are picking up and/or dropping off students at the bus stop shall refrain from parking or stopping across the street from the bus stop.

An open line of communication must be maintained between parent, school authorities, and the transportation department so that when problems do develop, parents are aware of them.