

Transportation Safety Plan

The Education Code requires charter schools that provide transportation to or from school or a school activity to prepare a transportation safety plan containing procedures for school personnel to follow to ensure the safe transport of pupils. This policy is drafted to meet the minimum requirements of the statute.

The **Tree of Life International Charter School** (“School”) provides transportation to and/or from School, and/or School activities. As such, it adopts the following procedures for School personnel to follow to ensure the safe transport of pupils.

Pupil Escorts

If the School uses a schoolbus and transports students in K-8, insert the next section. A “schoolbus” is defined as “any motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained for the transportation of a school pupil at or below the grade 12 level to or from a public...school or to or from public...school activities.” A “schoolbus” does not include the following: (a) A motor vehicle of any type carrying only members of the household of its owner; (b) A motortruck transporting pupils who are seated only in the passenger compartment, and a passenger vehicle designed for and when actually carrying not more than 10 persons, including the driver, except any vehicle or truck transporting two or more pupils who use wheelchairs; (c) Certain motor vehicles operated by a common carrier; (d) A school pupil activity bus as defined in Education Code section 39830.1; (e) A motor vehicle operated by a carrier licensed by the Interstate Commerce Commission that is transporting pupils on a school activity entering or returning to the state from another state or country; (f) Certain state-owned motor vehicles.

When a School’s schoolbus is stopped on a highway or private road for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils, at a location where traffic is not controlled by a traffic officer or official traffic control signal, the schoolbus driver shall to the following: Escort all pupils in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 8, inclusive, who need to cross the highway or private road upon which the schoolbus is stopped. The driver shall use an approved hand-held “STOP” sign while escorting all pupils.

[The plan is required to address the procedures for all pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 8 to follow as they board and exit the appropriate schoolbus at each pupil’s schoolbus stop. Your School may adopt additional procedures from those identified here.]

[If your School uses a “schoolbus,” as defined, use the following paragraph.] On approach to a schoolbus stop where pupils are loading or unloading from a schoolbus, the schoolbus driver shall activate an approved amber warning light system, if the schoolbus is so equipped, beginning 200 feet before the schoolbus stop. The schoolbus driver shall operate the flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm as required on the schoolbus, at all times when the schoolbus is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils. The amber warning light system, if applicable, flashing red light signal system and stop signal arm shall remain on until all pupils are on board the schoolbus and the doors are closed. Pupils will only be allowed to exit or enter the schoolbus once the bus driver has determined that it is safe to do so.

[If your School does not use a “schoolbus,” as defined, use the following paragraph.] On approach to a schoolbus stop where pupils are loading or unloading from a schoolbus, the schoolbus driver shall activate the hazard lights on the vehicle beginning 200 feet before the schoolbus stop. The hazard lights shall operate at all times when the vehicle is stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading pupils. The hazard lights shall remain on until all pupils are on board the vehicle and the doors are closed. Pupils will only be allowed to exit or enter the vehicle once the bus driver has determined that it is safe to do so.

Students shall load or unload the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** at stops designated by the Principal, or his/her designee, for school trip activities. Students who need to cross the roadway upon which the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** has stopped must walk in front of the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** as they cross. Before the driver may set the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** back into motion, the driver must ensure that all pupils who have crossed the roadway have done so safely, and the all other pupils and pedestrians are a safe distance from the **[schoolbus or vehicle]**.

Students boarding and existing a **[schoolbus or vehicle]** must do so in an orderly manner. The driver must ensure that all pupils have taken a seat in the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** before setting the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** in motion.

The driver of the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** shall not exit the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** until he/she has visually inspected each seating row of the **[schoolbus or vehicle]** to ensure that no pupil is left unattended on the **[schoolbus or vehicle]**.

The School is committed to ensuring supervision of its students by an adult at all times. For each type of use of the school pupil activity bus, the Principal, or his/her designee, will determine how many and what kinds of chaperones are needed, recognizing that a higher number of chaperones will be required for more hazardous activities.

- The School will base the number of chaperones on an evaluation considering the number of students, age and maturity of the students, and types of activities involved