

# POLICY

## [District Name] School Bicycle Policy

Bicycling is among the best ways to promote student well being. The District supports bicycling as transportation as long as students live within bicycling distance and there are adequate facilities. Bicycling provides physical activity, decreases congestion and resulting pollution and provides skills and healthy habits that will last a life-time. Parents are discouraged from driving children to and from school, particularly since motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among school-age children. The District supports students' participation in Safe Routes to School programs.

The District regards the riding of bicycles to school by students as an assumption of responsibility by students and their parents – a responsibility in the care of property, in the observation of safety rules, and in the display of courtesy and consideration towards others. The District assumes no liability for injuries occurring outside school property.

The District strongly recommends that students and their parents follow recommended bicycling safety guidelines and always use their common sense and good judgment. School employees and parents/caregivers are role models for all children, and older children should be models for younger children. Role models have a responsibility to follow the laws and rules for safe walking, bicycling and driving to ensure the safety of all road users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists). All students under 17 must wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. All bicyclists, including employees and parents/caregivers should wear a properly fitted helmet when riding.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> grade and below:**

Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and below should be accompanied by an adult when bicycling to or from school, as well as complying with the other conditions below. Parents are strongly cautioned to exercise great care and supervise carefully if children of this age wish to bicycle to school. Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and below are unlikely to have the developmental and judgment skills for unsupervised bicycling.

### **4<sup>th</sup> grade and above:**

The District [or the city police, or parks and recreation program, or local clinic or hospital, etc.] provides bicycle education in grade \_\_\_\_\_ (ideally end of 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> grade) to teach traffic skills and rules as well as improved judgment in individual and group bicycling. The District recommends that every child take this training or a similar bicycle safety course before riding in traffic.

Students who ride bicycles to and from school must have written consent from a parent or legal guardian and agree to the conditions listed below. The District expects parents and guardians to make students aware of these rules and conditions and the safety reasons supporting them.

Students should follow state law and safety guidelines for bicyclists:

1. According to N.J. state law, anyone under 17 that rides a bicycle must wear a helmet at all times (N.J. state law Title 39:4-10.1). Any student without a helmet will have their bicycle confiscated by the Building Administrator until a parent or

guardian picks it up. Noncompliance with this rule will result in disciplinary action.

2. In New Jersey, bicycles are defined as vehicles under the state motor vehicle code contained in NJSA Title 39:4. Parents and students should be aware of these state bicycling laws and follow them at all times. Riders must follow the rules of the road including but not limited to:
  - a. Obeying all traffic lights and signals (N.J. state law Title 39:4-14.1, 39:4-14.2, 39:4-10.11),
  - b. Using hand signals before making turns,
  - c. Only one rider per seat – never let a friend ride on the handlebars or wheel pegs (N.J. state law Title 39:4-12),
  - d. Stopping and looking left, right, then left again before leaving driveways or entering any street,
  - e. Riding with traffic (N.J. state law Title 39:4-14.2, 39:4-10.11). Don't ride too close to parked cars – doors can open suddenly,
  - f. Riding where drivers can see you and don't swerve between cars,
  - g. Equipping the bicycle with a bell or other audible device that can be heard at least 100 feet away, but not a siren or whistle (N.J. state law Title 39:4-11), and
  - h. If you must ride at dawn, dusk or after dark, use headlights and tail lights – white in the front and red in back (N.J. state law Title 39:4-10).
3. Bicycles ridden to school should be roadworthy and regularly maintained. Students should test tires for air before riding and make sure brakes work (N.J. state law Title 39:4-11.1).

While at school, students must comply with these rules:

4. Bicycles may not be ridden on school grounds during arrival and dismissal; they must be walked.
5. Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided. Students must bring and use bicycle locks.
6. Helmets must be stored in locker, backpack or attached to bicycle.
7. Students are not to interfere with any bikes, helmets or other equipment (steal, unlock quick releases, bounce helmets, etc.).

The School District/Board or its subsidiaries are not liable for any equipment or property damage.

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Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We have read and understood this policy and give our permission for our child (named above) to ride his/her bicycle to school and understand our obligations under New Jersey's Bicycle Helmet Law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date