

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD REPORT

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gregory Merwin, Associate Superintendent, Education and Support Services
Prepared by: Mike Beekman, Executive Director, Safety and Student Services

Date: September 21, 2022

Board Item: Second Reading – Board Policy 5142.2, Safe Routes to School Program

HISTORY

This is a subsequent action item. Ensuring student safety to and from school is a high priority for District staff. The California School Boards Association (CSBA) has both a Board Policy and Administrative Regulation sample which districts can use to develop their own policy. Currently, the District does not have a policy addressing student safety to and from school.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A major factor in adopting Board Policy, 5142.2, *Safe Routes to School Program*, was to address the students' use of electric bicycles (eBikes). There has been a rapid sales growth of eBikes since their development in 1998. Over the last four years, the use of eBikes by students has grown exponentially.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS

Recently, eBikes have created new issues on-campus and to/from school. Students riding eBikes to/from school and the storage of eBikes on campus needs to be regulated. Since there is not a CSBA sample policy that speaks specifically to eBikes, staff has created this Board Policy and accompanying Administrative Regulation 5142.2, *Safe Routes to School Program*, addressing eBikes. A committee of District and site administrators developed a protocol for eBikes, which includes; storage, security, permits, education, bike classifications and safety. This policy has been reviewed and edited by legal counsel.

After the first reading by the Board of Trustees at the August 17, 2022 meeting, Trustees requested additional language be added to the policy to address school site procedures for eBikes on campuses.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial impact.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Following discussion, it is recommended the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy 5142.2, *Safe Routes to School Program*.

PREPARED BY: Mike Beekman, Executive Director, Safety and Student Services

APPROVED BY: Gregory Merwin, Associate Superintendent, Education and Support Services

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees recognizes that walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transport to school increase students' physical activity ~~and while reducing~~ vehicle traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. As part of the District's coordinated approach to supporting student wellness and safety and enhancing student learning and achievement, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies to establish and encourage Safe Routes to School Program activities.

The Superintendent or designee may appoint a Safe Routes to School Program coordinator and identify or establish District or school site committees to oversee and coordinate related activities.

The Superintendent or designee may collaborate with local public departments, transportation agencies, other city and county agencies, school staff, students, parents/guardians and parent organizations, health organizations, community organizations, and businesses in the development, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to support the Safe Routes to School Program.

Strategies in support of the Safe Routes to School Program shall be based on the grade levels of the students and an assessment of the conditions and needs of each school and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The Superintendent or designee shall explore the availability of grant funds and other sources of funding to support related projects and activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board on the implementation of program activities and progress toward program goals.

E-bike have had a growing presence on District campuses in recent years. Although they are an effective mode of transportation for some families, improper use could lead to hazardous situations. Each site shall establish procedures regarding E-bikes in accordance with Administrative Regulation 5142.2 Safe Routes to School. The procedure should address storage, security, permits, education, placards, safety and enforcement. School sites should work with law enforcement to identify appropriate routes to school for E-bikes and shall share that information with students with permitted E-bikes.

Board Policy
Approved:

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Juan Capistrano, California