

Special Needs

Evacuation of special needs students is an area where the driver has to exercise extreme caution. Each student has his or her own individual evaluation plan and or situation. Therefore, evacuations are treated according to their physical or mental capabilities.



Glendale Elementary School District No. 40

Rear or side door evacuation drill is more critical to perform than front because of the height of the exits. It is required that children be instructed to sit on the floor and slide out using the helpers to avoid any possible injuries. Older students should be cautious of head injuries caused by hitting their heads on the top of the exit frame. Make sure they bow their head forward before reaching for the helpers to jump out.

When you perform rear or side evacuations, you reverse the front exit procedures. You should instruct your helpers how and when to open the doors and caution about the dangers of possible injuries.



Glendale Elementary School District No. 40

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School Bus Evacuation Procedures & Drills



GLENDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 40

Transportation Services
623-237-6260



Bus Evacuation Mandatory

The Arizona Minimum Standards for school buses and school bus drivers, R17-9-104.31 says that at least twice during every school year, a school shall conduct an evacuation drill of a school bus at the school that includes every passenger who rides a school bus and is in school on the day of the evacuation drill. At least 14 days before an evacuation drill, a school shall submit to Arizona Department of Public Safety, Student Transportation Unit, a written notice stating the date, time and location of the evacuation drill. Each school bus driver shall participate in a minimum of two evacuation drills during every school year.

At GESD, the Transportation Department works with each site and does the paperwork for DPS.

Evacuation Drills

Shall include:

- A. Practice and instruction in the location, use and operation of the emergency exits, fire extinguishers, first aid equipment, windows as a means of escape, and communication systems.
- B. Practice and instruction in when and how to approach, load, unload, and move away from the school bus a minimum of 100 feet.
- C. Instructions on how weather-related hazards affect emergency procedures. In Arizona, the roadway or black top can be as hot as 200 degrees on some days.
- D. Instructions on the importance of orderly conduct.
- E. Instructions on not returning to the school bus if you forget something.

Notice:

No one can predict when an actual emergency situation will occur that makes evacuating a bus the difference between life and death, but they can happen.

To be prepared for something that may never happen is far better than to be unprepared if it does occur.

Combination Evacuations

All Glendale Elementary School District No. 40 school buses are equipped with rooftop openings that serve as vents and emergency exits, and may be used in the event of a rollover accident. During mandatory school bus evacuation days at Glendale Elementary Schools, the school bus operator will point out the location and explain the operation of the rooftop hatch.

The school bus operator will start with the same procedure as a front exit. He / she will give the commands from the front of the bus, then walk to the center of the bus and commence the drill through both exits.

After all seats are emptied, the operator will go to the rear of the bus and check to assure that all students have vacated.



Learning About School Bus Evacuations