



# School Safety and Emergency Management

## Monthly Minute: Transportation Safety

April 2022

**Monthly Minute** is a newsletter providing insight and tips on potential threats and hazards brought to you by your regional school emergency management professionals in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education.



Consider all places and all times: when the buses show up to your building for a new school day you could be forgiven for considering that the beginning of your day and the beginning of your planning needs. But what happens as the kids get loaded on buses near their homes? Or what happens as the busses make the rounds in the afternoon to reunite children with their families?

The easy planning consideration for schools is for

the settings in which we have the most control: when the students are in their classrooms, the halls are empty and we know where everyone is. But a disaster can strike at any time and it is important to know ahead of time what you need to do to ensure students and staff are safe and then to make sure they are reunified safely.

Considering all places and all times—not just the “blue skies” days—will help us better manage stressful situations. The following are some planning considerations for school transportation before, during and after a school day:

- Have alternate reunification sites where busses can go or stage if there is a disruption

to their route or on school grounds—this is especially important if a major event threatens safety on school grounds before the buses arrive.

- Have a communications plan in place between school staff and bus drivers.
- Practice and train bus emergency procedures including evacuation drills.
- Coordinate communication and response with your local emergency responders.
- Ensure your planning considerations include students with access and functional needs, such as communication and mobility supports.

Contact us for help with any emergency planning need.

## Contact Information

Scan the QR code below or [click this link](#) to connect with a regional school emergency management professional.



Join us on the **2nd Wednesday of every month at 8:30am** to get assistance with this or other emergency preparedness topics: [ZOOM LINK!](#)

## Transportation Resources

Oregon Department of Education [Pupil Transportation home page](#).

Oregon Pupil [Transportation manual](#): regulations and responsibilities.

[School Bus Safety](#) from US Dept. of Transportation.

Oregon Emergency Management [local contacts list](#).