



Bultum Academy Active Transportation Safety Training Manual

Introduction

Bultum Academy Charter School prioritizes the safety of our students who choose active transportation – walking, biking, or using electric-assisted bicycles (e-bikes) – to get to and from school. This training manual outlines the age-appropriate curriculum required by Minnesota Statute 123B.935, ensuring students understand safe practices for their chosen mode of transportation.

Target Grades

- Kindergarten - Grade 3: Pedestrian Safety
- Grade 4 - Grade 8: Pedestrian Safety, Bicycle Safety, E-Bike Safety (Informational)

Training Objectives

By the end of this training, students will be able to:

- Identify safe walking and biking routes (Grades 4-8).
- Demonstrate safe pedestrian skills, including crossing roads using the "searching left, right, left" technique (Grades K-3 & 4-8).
- Recognize and understand relevant traffic laws for pedestrians and cyclists (Grades 4-8).
- Explain the proper fit and use of protective gear for cycling (Grades 4-8).
- Identify key bicycle parts and safety features (Grades 4-8).
- Demonstrate safe biking techniques (Grades 4-8).
- Understand the legal restrictions on operating e-bikes (minimum age of 15) (Grades 4-8).

Training Activities

Kindergarten - Grade 3 (Pedestrian Safety):

- **Interactive discussions:** Lead discussions about safe walking routes, identifying safe places to cross streets, and the importance of adult supervision.
- **Role-playing activities:** Simulate safe pedestrian behaviors like using crosswalks, looking both ways before crossing, and following traffic signals.
- **Songs and rhymes:** Use engaging songs and rhymes to reinforce key safety messages about pedestrian safety.
- **Guest speakers:** Invite local law enforcement or safety experts to speak to students about pedestrian safety rules.
- **Field trips:** Take students on short walks around the school neighborhood to practice safe walking skills in real-world situations (consider parent/guardian permission).



Grade 4 - Grade 8 (Pedestrian Safety, Bicycle Safety, E-Bike Safety):

- **Video presentations:** Use age-appropriate videos to illustrate safe pedestrian and bicycling practices.
- **Bicycle safety checks:** Conduct regular bicycle safety checks to ensure students' bikes are in proper working order and have the necessary safety features.
- **Bicycle skills practice:** Provide a safe space for students to practice basic bicycle skills like braking, shifting gears, and signaling turns (consider weather permitting).
- **E-bike safety discussions:** Discuss the legal limitations on operating e-bikes, highlighting the minimum age requirement of 15 and focusing on the increased dangers compared to traditional bikes.

Assessment

- **Informal observations:** Teachers will observe students' walking and biking behaviors before and after the training to assess their understanding of safety principles.
- **Short quizzes:** Age-appropriate quizzes can be used to gauge students' knowledge of traffic laws, safe cycling practices, and e-bike restrictions (Grades 4-8).
- **Self-reflection exercises:** Encourage students to reflect on their personal safety habits and how they can improve their safe walking and biking practices (Grades 4-8).

Deadlines and Accommodations

- New students (K-8) will be assessed for prior active transportation safety training within four weeks of enrollment.
- Students who haven't received the appropriate training will be provided with the training or instructional materials within the following timelines:
 - Kindergarten - Grade 3 (Pedestrian Safety): By the end of the third week of school.
 - Grades 4 - 8 (Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety): By the end of the sixth week of school.
- Bultum Academy will make reasonable accommodations for the active transportation safety training of English Language Learners and students with disabilities (Subd. 3b).
- Distance learning options may be explored for active transportation safety training (Subd. 3a).

Resources

- Minnesota Department of Transportation: <https://dot.state.mn.us/safety/index.html>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA): <https://www.nhtsa.gov/book/countermeasures-that-work/bicycle-safety>
- League of American Bicyclists: <https://bikeleague.org/>

Conclusion

By incorporating this age-appropriate active transportation safety training into our curriculum, Bultum Academy empowers students to make safe choices on their way to and from school. We encourage parents and guardians to reinforce these safety messages at home and model safe walking and biking practices.