

E-Bikes are Electrifying the Future!

What Parents Should Know...

E-bikes are rapidly increasing in popularity, especially with teens as they provide increased independence. E-bikes allow children to travel further and faster, allowing steep hills to be easily climbed. Heavy school books and sports equipment are no longer an issue to transport!

One less vehicle on the road benefits all.



BUT, is your child experienced enough to manage the increased speeds and maneuverability of a heavy E-bike?

Parents are advised to do their own research and assess their children's cycling capabilities before purchasing one. Below are some considerations to help parents make informed decisions.

- 1. Heavy E-bikes traveling at high speeds are harder to maneuver and take longer to stop.** The average speed of a standard bicyclist is 12 mph. Type 1 & 2 ebikes can travel up to 20 mph (Type 3- 28 mph). This is a significant difference when considering the experience level of student E-bike riders.
- 2. E-bike riders (and all cyclists) must follow the same rules as vehicles when riding on roadways.**
[\(California Vehicle Code \(CVC\) §21230\)](#)

Is your child experienced with the following?

- Taking turns with vehicles at intersections after coming to a complete stop
- Riding predictably WITH the flow of traffic and does not weave in and out of vehicles
- Riding outside of the door zone of parked vehicles (at least 3 feet away)
- Using hand signals for turning right, left and stopping, and scans before merging onto roads and changing lanes
- Obeying posted speeds on pathways and giving pedestrians the right of way
- Knowing how to stop abruptly and dodge obstacles without swerving into vehicle lanes
- Committed to wearing a helmet and ensuring their passenger does as well (17 and under are required to do so by law)

Riding confidently on roads and pathways takes practice

Parents, or another experienced adult cyclist, are advised to ride with children to ensure they are following the rules of the road and can handle the bicycle in various road conditions. With E-bikes, this includes extra practice – riding responsibly and under control at all times, including switching between gears and speed settings.



Types of E-bikes

- **TYPE I:** 20 mph max with only pedal-assist, no throttle. These E-bikes are legal on any paved surface that a regular bike is allowed to operate
- **TYPE II:** 20 mph max with pedal-assist and a powerful throttle function that negates the need to pedal. These E-bikes are legal on any paved surface that a regular bike is allowed to operate at the posted speed.

NOTE: Type I and Type II E-bikes don't have a minimum age restriction and are allowed on multi-use pathways

- **TYPE III:** 28 mph max, only pedal-assist, no throttle. This type is a tier below true motorcycles and mopeds. Riders must be 16 or older and wear a helmet. They are prohibited from multi-use paths unless otherwise specified.

E-Scooter Laws

- California's law permits anyone OVER the age of 16, who has a learner's permit or license, to operate an E-scooter
- E-scooter riders must know traffic laws, because they must share the road with vehicles
- Users can ride in bike lanes on the road if the posted speed limit is 25 mph or slower
- California law prohibits riding E-scooters on sidewalks and pathways unless marked otherwise

Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to Schools teaches students the Rules of the Road in elementary and middle schools. Their bicycle classes give students the opportunity to practice maneuvers on mock streets.

Visit the Safe Routes Website

saferoutestoschools.org

to find out more including:

[Safe Routes Safety Tips](#)

[Safe Routes to School Curriculum Overview](#)

[Education Classes](#)

[Remote Learning](#)

Resources

Marin County Bicycle Coalition

[E-Bike Policies in Marin County](#)

DMV

[Two-Wheel Vehicle Operation](#)

