

Share the Road. Ride Smart. Drive Safe.



E-Bikes, Scooters and School Safety

E-bikes and scooters are convenient and efficient ways to get around. They are also legally defined vehicles in many situations. You are responsible for following traffic laws and keeping school zones safe.

Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. Understanding and following the laws helps prevent injuries and prevent citations.

Know Before You Ride

Not all e-bikes and scooters are the same under California law.

See the next page for details.

- Some e-bikes and scooters require a valid driver license.
- Some are not permitted on sidewalks.
- Some are designed for off-road use only (not street legal).
- Helmet requirements vary depending vehicle type, but always required for riders under 18.

If you are unsure what type of device you have, check the manufacturer's label or specifications before riding.



School Zone Safety Tips

- Obey all traffic signals, stop signs, and posted speed limits. School zone speed limits are typically 25 mph unless otherwise posted.
- Wear a properly fitted and secured helmet when required.
- Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and crossing guards.
- Avoid handheld phone use and other distractions including headphones, etc.
- Only one rider per device, except for e-bikes designed with a second seat for a passenger.
- Law enforcement may issue citations for unsafe or unlawful riding or driving.

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Motorized Bicycle or Moped

California Vehicle Code (CVC) 406 (a)

Two or three wheels • Fully operative pedals or no pedals if it has an electric motor • Maximum speed of 30 mph

License: Driver license with an M1 or M2 endorsement

Helmet: DOT compliant helmet required for all ages

Where: May ride on public and private roads

Other Info: Must be registered with the DMV and have adequate vehicle insurance



Off-Highway Motorcycle

California Vehicle Code (CVC) 436

A motorcycle for use exclusively off the highway • Electric and/or gas powered

License: None (this type of vehicle is not street legal)

Helmet: DOT compliant helmet required for all ages

Where: Only off-highway vehicle parks or on private property

Other Info: Must be registered with the DMV and have adequate vehicle insurance



Class 1 & Class 2 E-Bike

California Vehicle Code (CVC) 312.5

A pedal or throttle-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a motor that assists only up to a speed of 20 mph

License: None

Helmet: Bicycle helmet if under 18

Where: Wherever traditional bicycles may ride

Other Info: No minimum age requirement to ride



Class 3 E-Bike

California Vehicle Code (CVC) 312.5

A low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle equipped with a speedometer, and a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to assist when a speed of 28 mph is reached

License: None

Helmet: Bicycle helmet regardless of age

Where: Wherever traditional bicycles may ride, except not allowed on multi-use paths or bike trails unless permitted by local ordinance.

Other Info: Must be at least 16 years old to ride



Motorized E-Scooter

California Vehicle Code (CVC) 407.5

Two wheels with a motor, handlebars, and a floorboard for standing on when riding • May have a driver seat that does not interfere with the ability to stand and ride

License: Driver's license or instruction permit required

Helmet: Bicycle helmet if under 18

Where: Wherever traditional bicycles may ride - No riding on sidewalks

Other Info: Not to exceed 15 mph



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