



E-BIKE SAFETY GUIDE FOR PARENTS

The Petaluma Police Department has seen a significant increase in safety concerns involving juveniles operating electric bicycles and similar devices. These issues impact student safety, campus supervision, and traffic near schools.

SAFETY & LIABILITY CONCERNS

Compared to traditional bicycles, e-bikes present increased risks:

- Higher speeds & longer stopping distances
- Heavier weight / reduced maneuverability
- Younger riders may lack traffic judgment

UNSAFE E-BIKE USE NEAR CAMPUSES THREATENS:

- Student riders
- Pedestrians & staff
- Parent drop-off/pick-up traffic

DID YOU KNOW?

- All e-bikes must remain unaltered**
 - Removing the chain, taking off the pedals, or making speed modifications will reclassify an e-bike to an off-road e-motorcycle. Off-road e-motorcycles are NOT permitted on any public streets.
- As of January 1, 2026, parents and guardians may face charges if they provide an inappropriate e-bike or fail to instruct their child on safe riding.**
- Only ONE rider per e-bike or e-scooter is allowed.
- Police may impound the e-bike for reckless riding or for operating a modified e-bike.



e-bike regulations

CLASS 1

CLASS 2

CLASS 3

	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
MAX SPEED	20 MPH	20 MPH	28 MPH
HELMET REQUIREMENT	IF UNDER 18	IF UNDER 18	IF UNDER 18
THROTTLE ASSIST	✗	✓	✗
AGE REQUIREMENT	✗	✗	16+
RULES OF THE ROAD	✓	✓	✓



electric scooters

- 20+ MPH
- helmet required
- driver's license required



- ✓ BIKE LANES
- ✓ BIKE TRAILS
- ✗ SIDEWALKS

- You do not need to register motorized scooters.

electric dirt bikes & mini motorcycles



PRIVATE PROPERTY USE ONLY

- ✗ PUBLIC ROADWAYS
- ✗ PARKS
- ✗ BIKE TRAILS

These are *not* classified as an e-bike by California law because they exceed the top allowable speed for Class 1, 2 or 3 e-bikes.

They also require a license and registration.