

E-BICYCLE & E-MOTO SAFETY GUIDE



The Sonoma County Safe Routes to School Program has seen a significant increase in safety concerns involving youth operating electric devices. These issues impact student safety, campus supervision, and traffic near schools.

SAFETY AND LIABILITY CONCERNS:

Compared to traditional bicycles, E-Bikes and E-Motos present increased risks:

- Higher speeds and longer stopping distances
- Heavier weight/reduced maneuverability
- Young riders may lack traffic judgement

UNSAFE E-BIKE/E-MOTO USE NEAR CAMPUSES THREATENS:

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

DID YOU KNOW?

All e-bikes must remain unaltered

- Removing the chain, taking off pedals, or making speed modifications will re-classify an e-bike to an off-road e-motorcycle (aka e-moto). Off road e-motos are NOT permitted on any public streets

As of January 1, 2026, parents and guardians may face charges if they provide an inappropriate e-device or fail to instruct their child on safe riding:

- Only ONE rider per e-bike or e-scooter is allowed
- Police may impound for reckless riding, for operating a modified e-bike, or for riding a street-illegal e-moto

E-BIKE REGULATIONS



	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
MAX SPEED	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph
HELMET REQUIREMENT	If under 18	If under 18	All Ages
THROTTLE ASSIST	✗	✓	✗
AGE REQUIREMENT	✗	✗	16+
RULES OF THE ROAD	✓	✓	✓

ILLEGAL FOR STUDENTS UNDER 16:

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS



- 20+ MPH
- Helmet required
- Drivers license required

- ✓ BIKE LANES
- ✓ BIKE TRAILS
- ✗ SIDEWALKS

You do not need to register motorized scooters

ELECTRIC DIRT BIKES & ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES



PRIVATE PROPERTY USE ONLY

- ✗ PUBLIC ROADWAYS
- ✗ PARKS
- ✗ BIKE TRAILS

E-MOTO GUIDE



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION



Off-road e-motos and unclassified, modified e-bicycles are ILLEGAL for students and NEVER permitted on public roads

COMMON E-MOTOS DECEPTIVELY MARKETING AS LEGAL E-BIKES INCLUDE



5th Wheel



Tuttio



Ridstar



Super 73

What's the difference between an e-bike and an e-motorcycle?



E-motorcycles require a license and registration to operate

E-motorcycles have a throttle and can reach 80+ mph

E-motorcycles have an electric motor > 750 watts

E-motorcycles are **ONLY** allowed to be ridden on private property, **NOT** public sidewalks, streets, or trails



E-Motorcycles may lack pedals or have pedals that are not fully functional

NEED MORE SUPPORT OR CLARIFICATION?

Visit the E-Bike Access Rogue E-Moto Gallery (www.ebikeaccess.org)

The Sonoma County Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program and/or your local police department offers bicycle and e-bicycle safety presentations for students, parents, school administrators, and school staff. Presentations include

✓ Safety best practices ✓ Legal classifications ✓ Compliance guidance

Officers and SRTS staff are also available to assess e-bike legality at school sites.

Contact Sonoma County Safe Routes at saferoutes@bikesonoma.org or 707-545-0153 to schedule a presentation or request guidance.