**[School District logo]**

**Dear [Middle or High School] Families**,

Marin County has long been a leader in promoting healthy, active lifestyles—and we’re proud of how many students walk, bike, and now e-bike to school. But with the growing popularity of e-bikes has come a serious safety concern that we must address together.

Since 2023, Marin Public Health has reported a sharp rise in e-bike injuries among youth, particularly those ages 10 to 15, who are ***five times more likely to require 911 services than adults***. These injuries are not minor scrapes —emergency room physicians report they resemble serious injuries from motor vehicle accidents like internal bleeding and brain trauma, due to the higher speeds and weight of e-bikes.

In response, jurisdictions across Marin are adopting new rules—authorized by last year’s state law AB 1778—that requires **students to be 16 to ride a throttle (Class 2) e-bike**. The new rules takes effect in Marin this summer, with the exact date varying by city. Riders under 16 can still ride Class 1 e-bikes.

All legal e-bikes in California must have fully operable pedals and a motor that does not exceed 750 watts. There are three classes of legal e-bikes in California:

* **Class 1** only assists when you pedal and stops helping at 20mph. Legal for all ages.
* **Class 2** assists with a throttle up to 20mph and pedaling isn’t required. You must be 16+ to ride in Marin.
* **Class 3** only assists when you pedal and stops helping at 28 mph. You must be 16+ to ride anywhere.

Starting this summer, please make sure your child rides a bike that is safe, legal and appropriate for their age and ability. We continue to strongly support cycling to and from school, and it is important that young riders be confident and experienced on a regular bike first **before** they start on an e-bike. E-bikes are faster, heavier, and require strong awareness and balance to ride safely. **What’s permitted on Marin County school campuses starting next fall:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Allowed** | **Not Allowed** |
| **Elementary and Middle Schools** | Class 1 e-bikes, regular bicycles | Class 2 & 3 e-bikes, illegal e-bikes (exceed 750 watts; can exceed 20 mph on motor power alone) |
| **High Schools** | All legal e-bikes (Class 2 & 3 riders must be 16+) | Illegal e-bikes (exceed 750 watts; can exceed 20 mph on motor power alone) |

We know that safety education is a critical component of this effort. That’s why Marin officials have launched a countywide ***E-Bikers Club*** campaign to promote safe riding habits and help students and parents choose the right e-bike. Visit [E-BikersClub.com](http://e-bikersclub.com) for an animated video, safety tips, free Marin-focused posters, and a safety pledge.

We’re proud to encourage biking as a sustainable, healthy way to get to school—and with your partnership, we can make it **safe for everyone**.

Warmly,

**[Superintendent’s Name]**

Superintendent of Schools