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News Release

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May 27, 2025

LET'S TALK ABOUT ELECTRIC SCOOTERS!

St. Charles Parish Public Schools are out for the summer! Children will be riding bikes, playing outside, and using electric scooters to visit their friends.

PARENTS, please take the time to sit down with your children to review the laws and safety precautions associated with riding and operating electric scooters. Our deputies will strictly enforce the law regarding these devices to help keep kids safe. Recently, there has been a rise in incidents involving electric scooters, including a tragic death reported in a neighboring parish and a scooter running a stop sign causing a crash in our parish.

Louisiana law permits electric scooters to be ridden on sidewalks, bicycle paths (unless otherwise posted), and roadways. However, it is crucial to follow the law and take safety precautions to prevent accidents.

- Operating an electric scooter that exceeds 20 miles per hour is PROHIBITED under Louisiana law and should not be operated on any roadway, sidewalk, bicycle path, etc.
- No electric scooter shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number of persons for which it was designed and equipped.
- Electric scooters cannot be towed or used to pull anything.
- Riders shall not carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand on the handlebar.
- Riders must ride as close as possible to the right side of the roadway and should exercise caution when passing stationary vehicles or fixed objects, turning at intersections or driveways, and passing other scooters, bicycles, golf carts, etc.
- An electric scooter MUST be equipped with brakes.

- Electric scooters shall have lights, reflectors, or reflective markings when operated between sunset and sunrise, and when insufficient light and unfavorable conditions make it difficult to see persons and vehicles 500 feet ahead.
- While it is encouraged for all electric scooter riders to wear a helmet for safety, it is mandatory for anyone under the age of 17.

Operating an electric scooter cautiously and being aware of your surroundings can prevent accidents. Be sure to look when crossing a street, stop at signs, yield to oncoming traffic, enter intersections slowly, etc.

Violations of Statute RS 32:300.1.1 regarding the operation of electric low-speed scooters may result in penalties. Penalties for a first offense can include fines of up to \$200 or imprisonment for up to 90 days, with increased penalties for subsequent offenses. You must abide by all state motor vehicle laws if you operate an electric scooter on a state highway.

If a child is stopped by a deputy for violating electric scooter laws, a parent or guardian will be contacted, and the child will be escorted home, with appropriate action taken.

Let's work together to keep our kids safe!!