

School Bus Safety Tips

School bus safety is a shared responsibility among parents, students, and the bus driver. Please review and reinforce these bus safety guidelines with your children regularly. When we all remember and follow these rules, riding the school bus can be a safe and pleasant experience.

Safety Tips for Students:

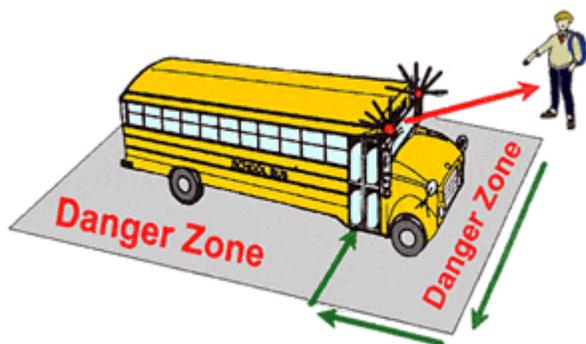
- Avoid loose fitting clothes and clothes with long strings. This type of clothing is more likely to get caught on the door while entering or exiting the bus.
- Pack all school items in your backpack or bookbag so you won't drop them when you get on or off the bus.
- Leave home early so you can arrive at the stop 5-10 minutes before your assigned stop time.
- Never run to catch the bus. If you miss the bus, go home or contact a parent/guardian.
- Walk on the sidewalk if possible. If not, walk single file on the left side of the road and stay close to the edge of the road.
- If you must cross a street, stop, look left, right and left again before crossing the street.
- When possible, parents should go to the bus stop with a young child. Older children should walk in groups.
- Buses are sometimes delayed by weather, traffic, breakdowns, etc. IF your bus is delayed, please know that your bus **WILL** still be coming.

Crossing the Street to the Bus

- If possible, have an adult help you cross the road.
- Always cross at the front of the bus, not the rear. Before crossing, be sure you can see the stop arm and lights flashing.
- **Wait for the driver's signal** before you start to cross.
- Look and listen both ways to be sure it is safe before you cross.
- Walk, never run across the street.

Waiting for the Bus

- Stay away from the DANGER ZONES AROUND THE BUS (see below).
- Stand at least ten feet (five giant steps) away from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Do not play in the street while waiting for the bus.
- Do not push, shove or play running games at the bus stop.



Boarding the Bus

- If you cross the street, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop. **Wait for the bus driver to signal you.** Check for traffic before stepping out. Cross at least ten feet (five giant steps) in front of the bus.
- NEVER walk between parked cars when entering the street.
- Enter the bus in single file and use the handrail.
- If you drop something, LEAVE IT! Tell the bus driver and wait for instructions. **Never** enter the danger zone to retrieve a dropped object.
- Go right to your seat and sit quietly.
- As a safety precaution, the last row of seats is not used unless and until all other seats are full.

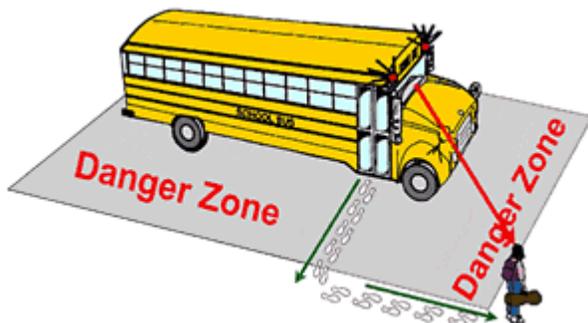
Riding the Bus

- Obey the bus driver at all times.
- Remain seated and face forward during the entire ride.
- Keep your feet out of the aisles and off the seats.
- Keep your head, hands and books inside the bus at all times.
- Talk quietly and avoid loud noises which could distract the driver.
- Do not talk when the bus is approaching or crossing railroad tracks.
- Be considerate of others and use appropriate language and behavior.
- Help keep the bus clean. Do not chew gum, eat or drink on the bus.
- Report any damage or concerns to the bus driver.
- Never play with the emergency exits. Large instruments or sports equipment should not block the aisle or emergency exits. If there is an emergency, **listen to the driver and follow instructions.**

Getting Off the Bus

- All riders will be discharged only at their assigned stop.
- Go directly home.
- When unloading, take five giant steps away from the bus. If you can touch the bus, you are too close.
- If you must cross the street, walk ten feet forward, stop, and **wait for the driver to signal you to cross.** ALWAYS cross in front of the bus, NEVER at the rear.

Never return to the danger zone around the bus once you have safely crossed.



Thank you and have a great and safe school year!!