



School Bus Safety

Parents play an important role in reinforcing school bus safety, by knowing the rules and talking to their children about them.

Students riding a school bus should always:

- Arrive at the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes early.
- **STAY OUT OF THE DANGER ZONE**
The "Danger Zone" is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver (10 feet in front of the bus where the driver may be too high to see a child, 10 feet on either side of the bus where a child may be in the driver's blind spot, and 10 ft. behind the bus) The bus driver and others cannot see you if you are standing closer than 10 feet from the bus.
- Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road. Wait until the bus stops completely and you hear the park brake set, the door opens and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Be careful that clothing and drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.
- Check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus.
- If you are late, never run after the bus (you could accidentally fall under the bus).

- If something falls under or near the bus, tell the driver. **NEVER** try to pick it up yourself!
- Stay in your seat and sit quietly (BACK TO BACK, SEAT TO SEAT) so that the driver is not distracted.

Crossing students should:

- Walk at least 10 ft. in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.
- Walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road at least 10 ft. away from the bus.
- Be sure the bus driver can see them, and they can see the bus driver.
- Wait for the driver's signal that traffic is clear both ways before crossing.

Things PARENTS should know about school bus safety:

- School buses are the safest form of highway transportation.
- The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the bus.
- **Young children are most likely to be struck because they:** Hurry to get on and off the bus, act before they think and have little experience with traffic, assume motorists will see them and will wait for them to cross the street, don't always stay within the bus driver's sight.