

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY GUIDE

SAFETY FIRST

School buses are one of the safest forms of transportation in the nation, nearly 200 times safer than the family car. Accidents are rare, because school districts, and the school bus contractors who serve them work hard to train drivers to avoid getting into accidents. In addition, the buses themselves are designed to withstand all but the most serious crashes without death or serious injury. With continued training to help children learn how to get on and off the bus safely, parents and teachers can help prevent the remaining few accidents that now occur.

The reality of school bus safety is that more children are hurt outside a bus than inside one. The child who bends over to retrieve a dropped school paper, or who walks too close to the bus while crossing the street, needs to be aware that every yellow school bus is surrounded by a danger zone. Perhaps the most difficult thing to teach children, especially young children, is not to go back to pick up items they've dropped near the bus or left on the bus.

How to get on a school bus safely....

1. Be at your bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.
2. Maintain order and stand in a single file line at the bus stop, standing at least 10 feet off the road.
3. Do not move towards the bus until it comes to a complete stop and you get the signal from the driver to approach the bus or cross the road.
4. Always watch for the drivers' signal, cross 10 feet in front of the bus.
5. If the driver honks the horn with one long blast, this means danger and you need to get back to the side of the road you came from. Keep a sharp eye out for traffic.
6. After boarding the bus, take your seat quickly, especially important on the highway.

How to unload a school bus safely....

1. Stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop.
2. Be ready to unload quickly, have all supplies in backpack. Pay attention to see when your stop comes.
3. After exiting the bus, move away quickly, do not go to your mailbox. If you are crossing, gather at a spot that is 10 feet in front of the bus, and to the side of the road and wait for the driver to signal you before crossing the road.
4. As you cross, watch out for traffic. If the driver honks the horn with one long blast, this means danger and you need to get back to the side of the road you came from. Keep a sharp eye out for traffic.
5. Maintain order at the bus stop. Go directly to your parents, waiting for you. Refrain from lingering at the roadside.