

Student Safety at School Bus Stops – Guidelines from All-Star Transportation

It's a well-known fact that the most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the school bus, and so at All-Star Transportation we do all that we can to ensure the safety of our students.

While our drivers are continuously focused on safety, students (and their parents) also have an important role in ensuring safe loading and unloading. Here are some important rules to share with your students:

1. Students should stand back 10 to 15 feet from the road whenever possible.
2. Students should wait for the school bus to come to a complete stop and for the driver to nod his/her head before approaching the bus.
3. Students should never run after the bus as it pulls away as the driver may not see them.
4. If students need to cross in front of the bus, they should wait until the bus driver nods his/her head to signal it is safe to cross the street. Students should always be aware of traffic and continuously look both ways as they cross.
5. Students should cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus; if you can't see the driver then the driver can't see you.
6. If a student drops something in front of the bus, the student should leave the item where it fell until getting the driver's attention and permission to retrieve the item.
7. No student should ever run towards/from the rear, alongside of a bus. A driver may not see a student in some danger zone blind spots.
8. Students should know the School Bus Danger Zones. Remember, if you can touch the bus, you're too close!

We have has posted a diagram of the loading and unloading Danger Zones on our website at <http://www.all-startransportation.com/photo-gallery>. The Danger Zones are the areas on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver.

School administrators can also help remind parents that they have a critical role in their child's safety. Here's a few bus stop safety tips for parents:

- Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so that they won't drop things.
- Have them wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers.
 - Make sure they leave home on time, so they can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due. Running can be dangerous.
- Stop and look left, right and then left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing at driveways and alleys.

- Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
- Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Warn children that, if they drop something, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions. If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they might not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.
- Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus. Drivers in a hurry sometimes try to sneak by buses on the right.
- If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street.