

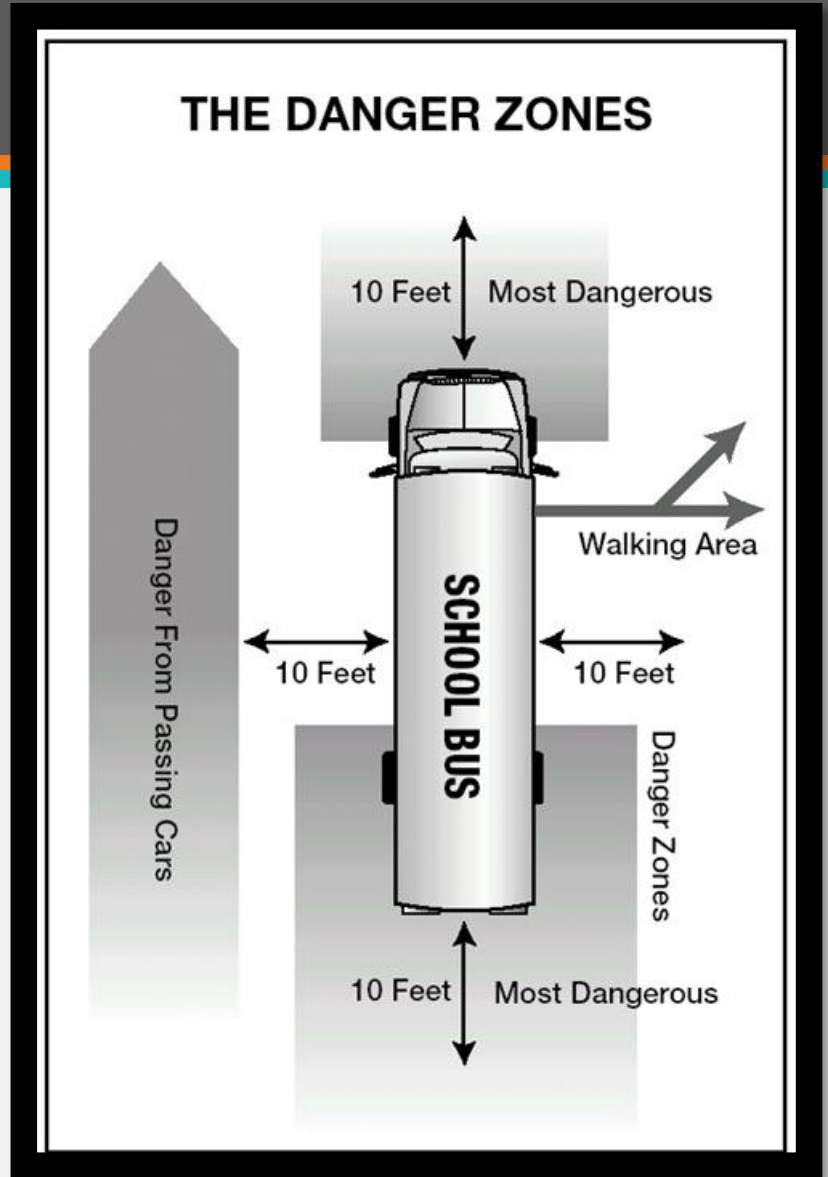
Albemarle County School Transportation Services

School Buses



Danger Zones

The “Danger Zone” is the area on all sides of the bus where the children are in the most danger of being hit either by vehicles or their own bus.



Left and Right Side Flat Mirrors

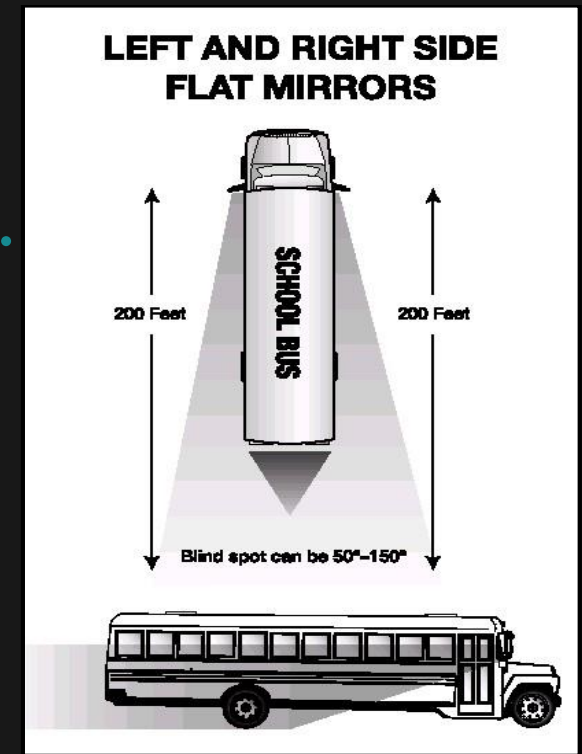
Proper mirror adjustment is vital to the safe operation of a school bus.

Flat Mirrors:

There is a blind spot directly immediately below and in front of each mirror and directly in back of the rear bumper.

Make sure your mirrors are adjusted so that you can see:

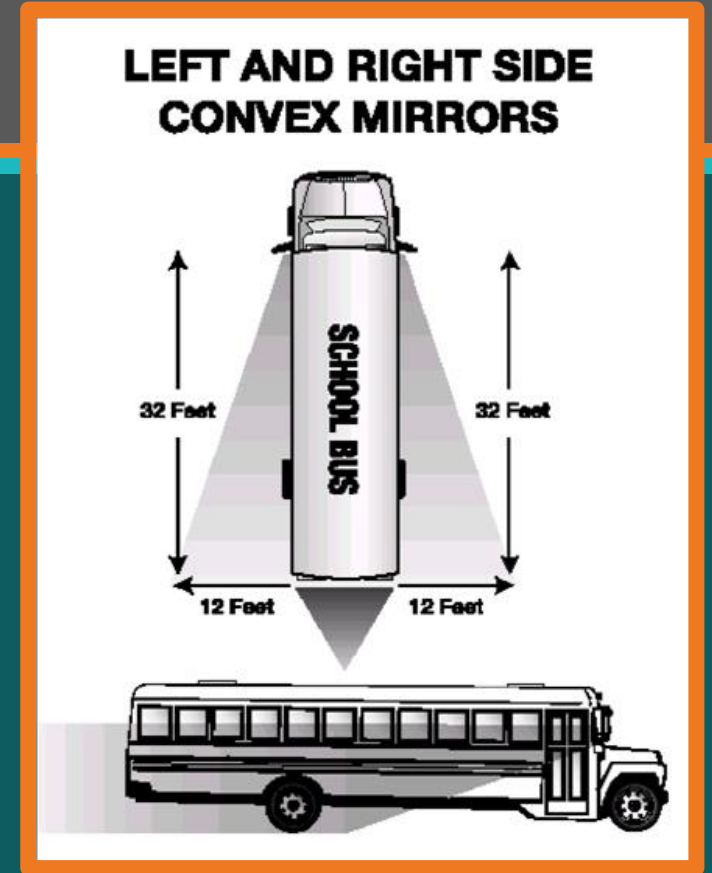
- 200 feet or 4 bus lengths behind the bus
- Along the sides of the bus
- The rear tires touching the ground



Left and Right Convex Mirrors

When adjusted properly, convex mirrors should allow you to see:

- The entire side of the bus up to the mirror mounts
- Front tires touching the ground
- At least one traffic lane on either side of the bus



Convex mirrors do not reflect objects true to size.

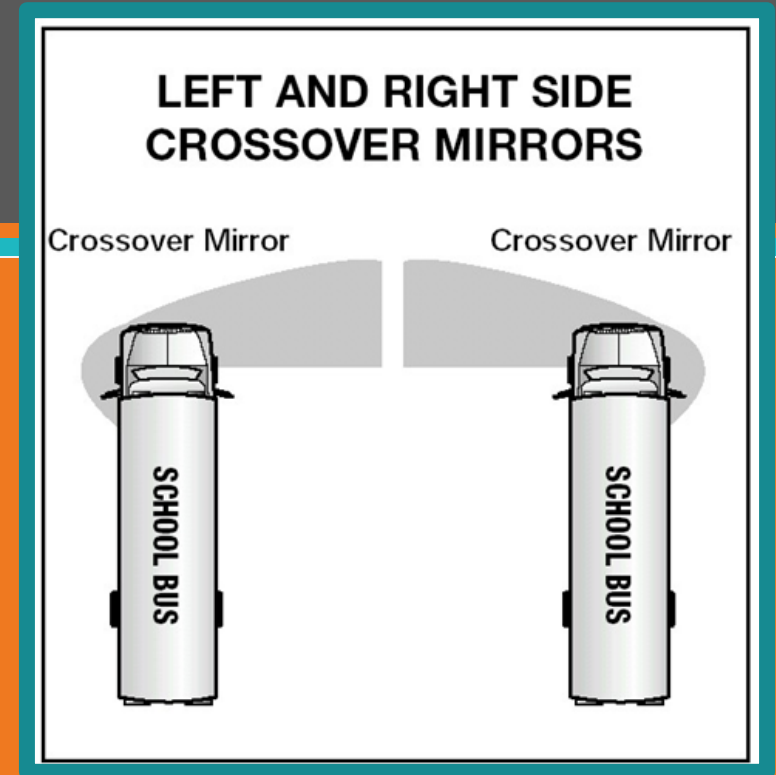
Left & Right Crossover Mirrors

Designed for the front bumper “Danger Zone”

If properly adjusted, you should be able to see:

- Entire area in front of the bus
- Right and left front tires touching the ground
- Area from the front of the bus to the service door

Flat mirrors, convex mirrors, and crossover mirrors are designed and mounted to protect children from being visually lost in the “Danger Zones” that surround a bus.



Loading & Unloading

More students are killed while getting on and off the bus than are killed as passengers inside of a school bus.



Approaching the stop:

- Approach at appropriate, slow speed, check all mirrors, check traffic, during and after the stop.
- Activate amber warning lights at least 200 feet (5-10 seconds) before you come to a stop.
- Move as far as possible to the right on the traveled portion of the roadway.

Stopping



- Bring the school bus to a complete stop with the front bumper at least 10 feet away from the students at the designated stop.
- Students should walk in front of the bus allowing you the best possible view.
- Set the parking brake at each stop – do not rely on your service brake.
- Activate alternating red lights when traffic is a safe distance from the bus and make sure stop arm is extended.
- Signal children to cross only when you are assured of their safety



Unloading Procedures



- Students will need to exit the bus and walk at least 10 feet away from the sides of the bus so that the driver can clearly see each student.
- After all students are unloaded and accounted for do a final walk through to make sure that there are no sleeping/hiding students or items left by students.
- Be especially careful of students running back to the bus to retrieve an object, students retrieving items dropped near or under the bus, and student inattentiveness.
- When crossing roadways, students MUST be at least 10 feet from the bus in a position where they are clearly seen by the driver.

Mandatory Bus Evacuations

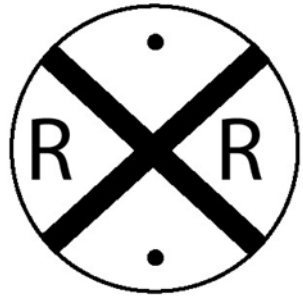


- Fire or threat of fire
- The bus is stalled on or adjacent to a railroad-highway crossing
- The position of the bus may change and increase the danger
- There is imminent danger of collision
- There is a need to quickly evacuate because of a hazardous spill.

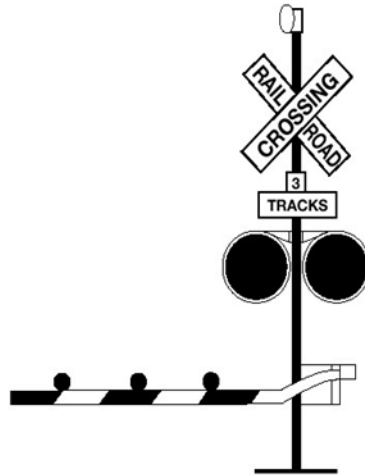


Railroad Crossings

ROUND YELLOW
WARNING SIGN



GATES/LIGHTS



MULTIPLE TRACKS



PAVEMENT
MARKINGS



Stop no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the nearest rail, so you will have the best view of the tracks.

Cross the tracks in low gear, and **DO NOT SHIFT GEARS** while crossing.

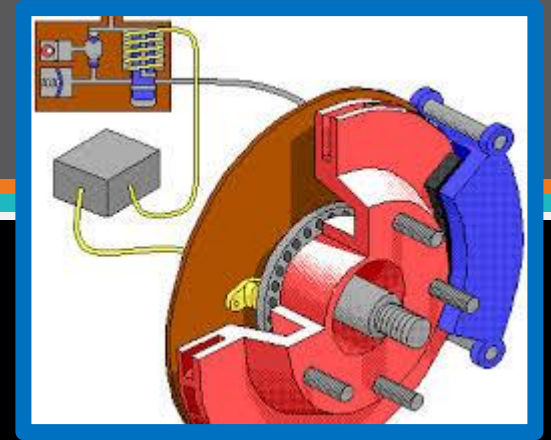
Passive Railroad-highway Crossings

- **Passive Crossings do not have any type of traffic control device.**
- **You must stop and follow RR X'ing procedures, but take extra caution to:**

- 1. Recognize Passive Crossings**
- 2. Search and listen for signs of a train**
- 3. Proceed with caution**



ABS



- **ABS won't prevent power or turning skids**
- **ABS won't necessarily shorten stopping distance**
- **ABS won't increase or decrease ultimate stopping power**
- **ABS won't change the way that you normally brake**



So what **WILL** ABS do?

- **Help you avoid wheel lock-up and maintain control**
- **Help you to steer around an obstacle while braking, and avoid skids caused by over braking**

Click the link below to complete the School Bus Quiz and then submit.

[School Bus Quiz](#)