

A WORD TO PARENTS

Please review this brochure with your child so that you **both** know the school bus safety rules. Even older children need to be reminded about the importance of safety. And **remember** that, before leaving for school, your child **needs**:

1. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast
2. To be dressed properly for the weather
3. A book bag to carry school items safely
4. To leave home early enough to arrive 5 minutes before the bus time without rushing

What is the most dangerous part of the school bus ride? The bus stop. Most of the children killed in bus-related crashes are young pedestrians who are getting on or off the bus. They are hit by the school bus or by motorists illegally passing a stopped bus.

What can you do?

- Be sure your child's clothing has no loose drawstrings and backpack straps are short so they won't get caught in the handrail or bus door.
- Join with your neighbors to find a way to ensure that every day someone supervises the children at the bus stop.
- Walk the route your child has to take to and from the bus stop before school starts each year.
- Teach your child traffic safety rules such as not to dart out into traffic, not to assume cars will stop for them and to use crosswalks to cross the street whenever possible.
- Teach your child to ask the driver for help if they drop something near the bus. They should **NEVER** stop in the Danger Zone to pick it up!

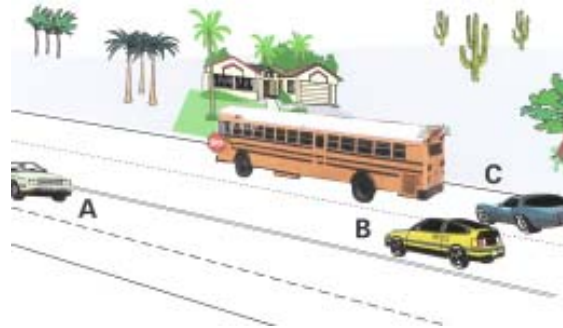
THE SCHOOL BUS STOP LAW

Arizona Revised Statute (In Part) §28-857. Overtaking and passing a School Bus

- A. On meeting or overtaking from either direction a school bus that has stopped on the highway, the driver of a vehicle on a highway shall:
1. Stop the vehicle before reaching the school bus, if the bus is displaying the signals provided in subsection C and if alternately flashing lights are in use.
 2. Not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the signal and alternately flashing lights are no longer displayed.

NOTE: Never pass on the right side of the bus, where children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results.

- Q. Which of these vehicles (A,B,C) are required to stop for the school bus?



- A. All three are required to stop. The painted area in the center of the street does not divide the roadway. Only a physical separation constitutes a divider.

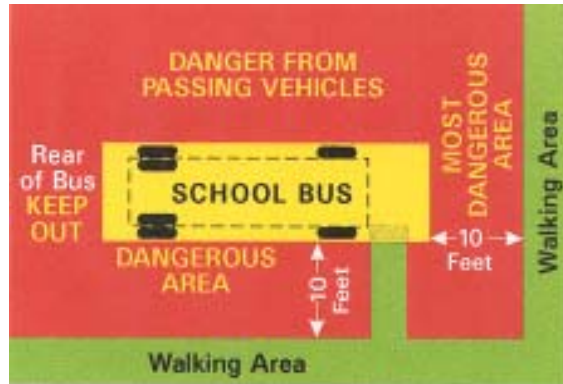
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO BE SAFE IN THE DANGER ZONE?



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Student Transportation Unit

The Danger Zone

Getting on and off the bus is the most dangerous part of the school bus ride because of the 10 foot area around all the sides of the bus where the driver cannot see you. This area is called the **DANGER ZONE**. The driver can't see you and might start moving the bus and hit you. You could be injured or killed.



Walking Safety Tips

When there is no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic and not too close to the road. When crossing the street, REMEMBER: Left - Right - Left. Look to the left, then the right and, then, left again. **After you get OFF the bus, if you have to cross the street, first walk 5 giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus along the edge of the street.** Then, look at the driver and wait for his/her signal. Cross only to the edge of the bus. Then, look left, right, and left again before crossing to the other side of the street.

WALK. Never run to or from the bus.

Waiting for the Bus

Be at your bus stop 5 minutes early. Stay 5 giant steps (10 feet) back from the road. Wait quietly and be alert to danger. Don't litter or damage the property nearby.

Getting on the Bus

Line up in single file 10 feet (5 giant steps) back from the street edge, smallest children first. Before you move, wait until the bus is stopped, the door opens, and the driver says it's O.K. Use the handrails and don't push or shove. Take your seat right away before the bus starts to move.



Be a Good Passenger

Sit facing forward in your seat and put your belongings on your lap, never in the aisle. Don't put your head, arms or anything else out the window. Talk quietly so the driver can listen for emergency vehicles and trains.

Getting off the Bus



Stay seated until the bus stops. Patiently wait your turn. Use the handrail. Be careful that drawstrings or straps don't get caught in the

handrail or door. Look for cars passing on the side of the road before stepping **OFF** the bus. Step off the bus and onto the sidewalk or 5 giant steps away from the street. If you **drop something** near the bus, NEVER try to pick it up. TELL THE DRIVER. The driver will help you get it. **If you have to cross the street**, first walk 5 giant steps ahead of the bus along the edge of the street. Then, look at the driver. When he signals, cross only to the edge of the bus. Then, look left, right, and left again before crossing to the other side of the street.

