

Bus Safety Tips for Students, Parents and Motorists

Safety Tips for Students

- It is a good practice to be five to 10 minutes early to your bus stop and never run after or next to a school bus.
- If the windows are down on a hot day, keep your head and arms inside the bus.
- Stay away from the Danger Zones. Areas within 10 feet to the front, back and sides of a bus are considered the most dangerous spots.
- If you drop something near the bus, never bend down or crawl under the bus to get it, ask your bus driver for help.
- If you must cross the street, always do so in front of the bus. Make eye contact with the bus driver before you cross. Make sure the red lights are flashing and walk in front of the crossing gate arm that extends in front of the school bus.
- Pay attention. Listen and look both ways before stepping off of the bus and wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the street. Don't let sweatshirt hoods or headphones block your vision or hearing.
- Don't use your cell phone to call or text while walking around the bus.

Safety Tips for Parents

- If you drop off or pick up your child at school, do not park in a bus-only zone. It may cause a collision and adds unnecessary risk to the safety of kids walking through a danger zone area.
- Check your child's clothing and backpack to make sure there are no loose drawstrings or long straps that could get caught in the handrail or bus door.
- Make sure your child gets on the bus on time. The beginning of the school year holds a greater risk of students rushing to make their bus, since many have to get up earlier than they're used to.
- Don't use your cell phone to call or text while walking around the bus.

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Stop at least 10 feet away from a school bus that has its red lights flashing and stop arm extended.
- Vehicles traveling in the same direction as the bus are required to stop when the red lights are flashing. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction are also required to stop, unless the highway is divided into separate roadways.
- Never pass a school bus on the right side, where children enter or exit.
- Remember that school vehicles must stop at all railroad crossings, whether or not a train is approaching.