



A child's Life...



...could be
saved *by you!*

Every year, children across the United States lose their lives in the process of riding school buses.

Seventy two percent of these fatalities take place outside the school bus. These tragedies can be avoided with caution and common sense. The most important thing you can do to help is to be aware: drive with care, and obey the laws that apply to school bus safety.

Every time you do, you're keeping someone's child safe from harm.

Red Lights and Stop Arm



You **must** stop for a school bus when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended; this means that children are getting on or off the bus. Stop at least 20 feet from the bus, and remain stopped until the lights are turned off and stop arm retracts!

Warning Signals



A school bus driver activates the bus's amber warning signals at least 100 feet before stopping. When the amber lights flash, you should immediately prepare to stop your vehicle.



If the speed limit is higher than 35 m.p.h., the bus driver must give 300 feet of warning.

Hazard Warning Lights



Always be cautious when approaching a stopped school bus. When the yellow hazard warning lights are flashing proceed with caution, because students may be getting on or off the bus.





Know and Obey School Bus Laws.

Under Minnesota Law, these are Misdemeanors, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail:

- Failure to stop at least 20 feet away from a stopped school bus
- Passing, or attempting to pass, a school bus on the right side when amber lights are flashing

Under Minnesota Law, these are Gross Misdemeanors, punishable by a fine of up to \$3,000 and 1 year in jail:

- Passing, or attempting to pass, a school bus on the right side when the stop arm is extended and red lights are flashing
- Passing, or attempting to pass, a school bus when a child is outside the bus, on the street or highway

The Danger Zone.

The **danger zone** is the area 10 feet around the entire bus. Children must be taught never to enter this danger zone unless they are getting on or off the bus.

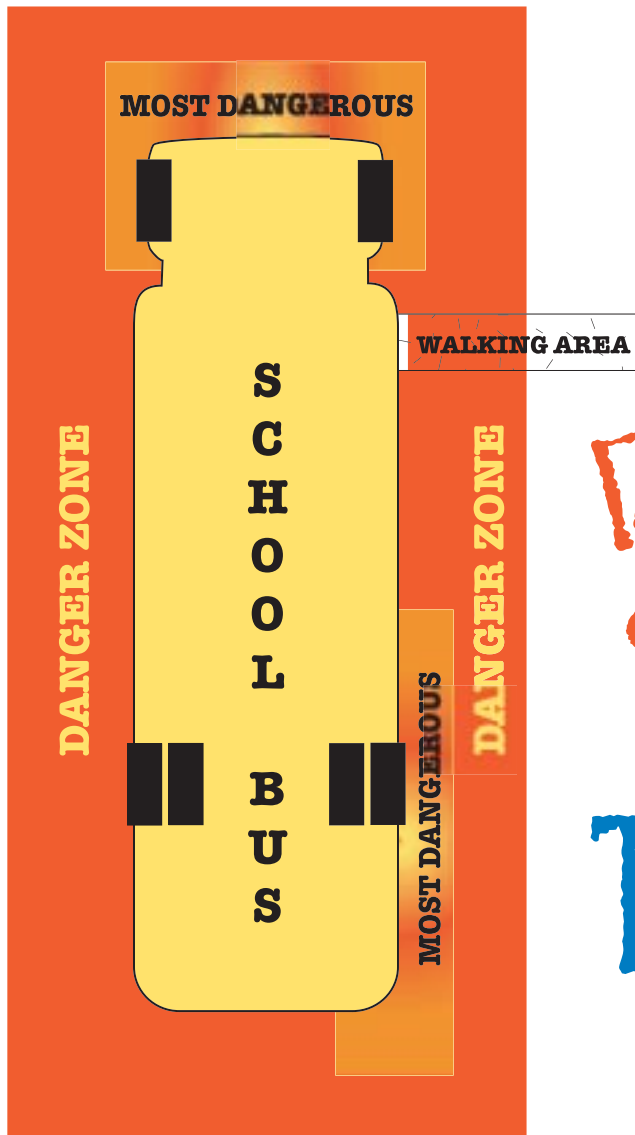
Drivers need to be aware of the possible presence of children in the danger zone when a school bus is loading or unloading. Parents should discuss the danger zone and school bus safety rules with their children who ride the bus.

Talk to your children

about
the

Danger
Zone...

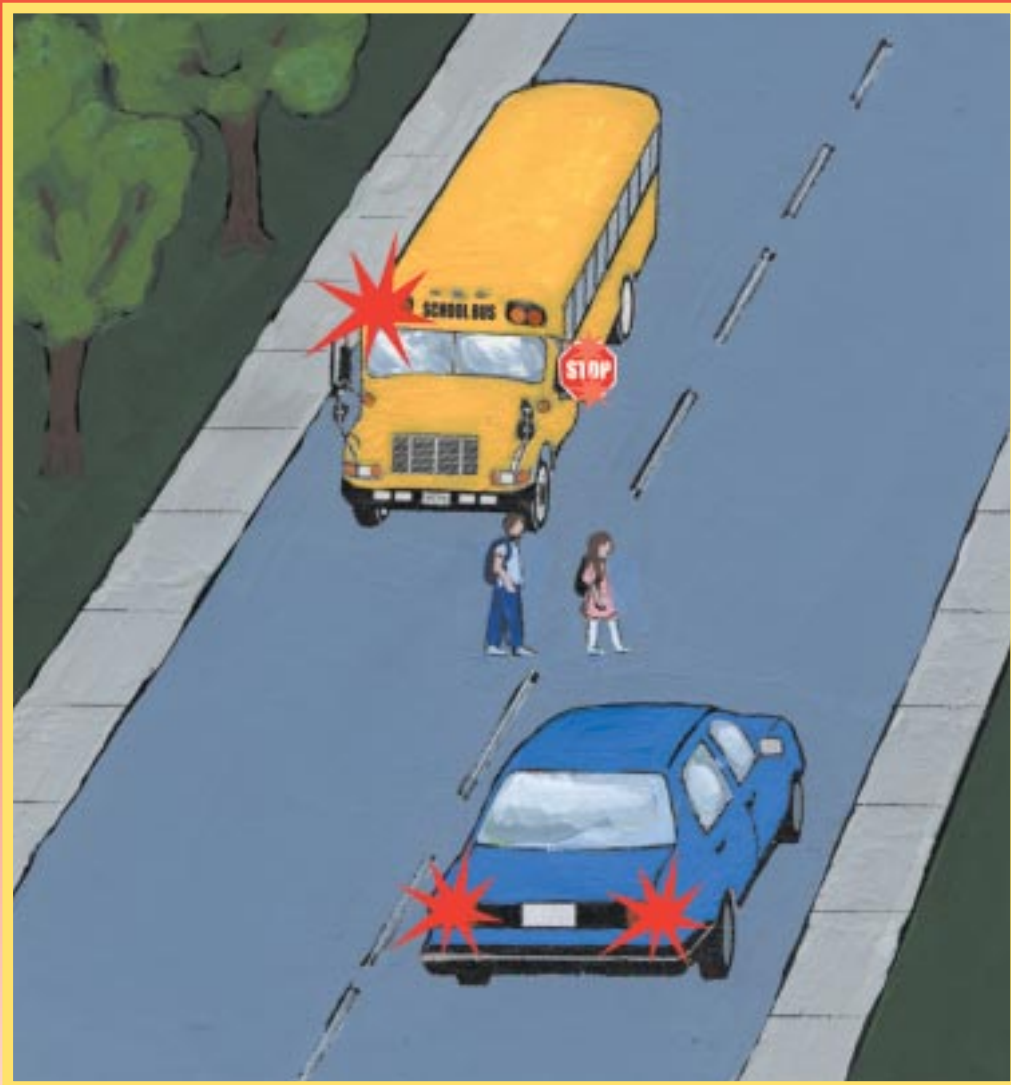
Today!



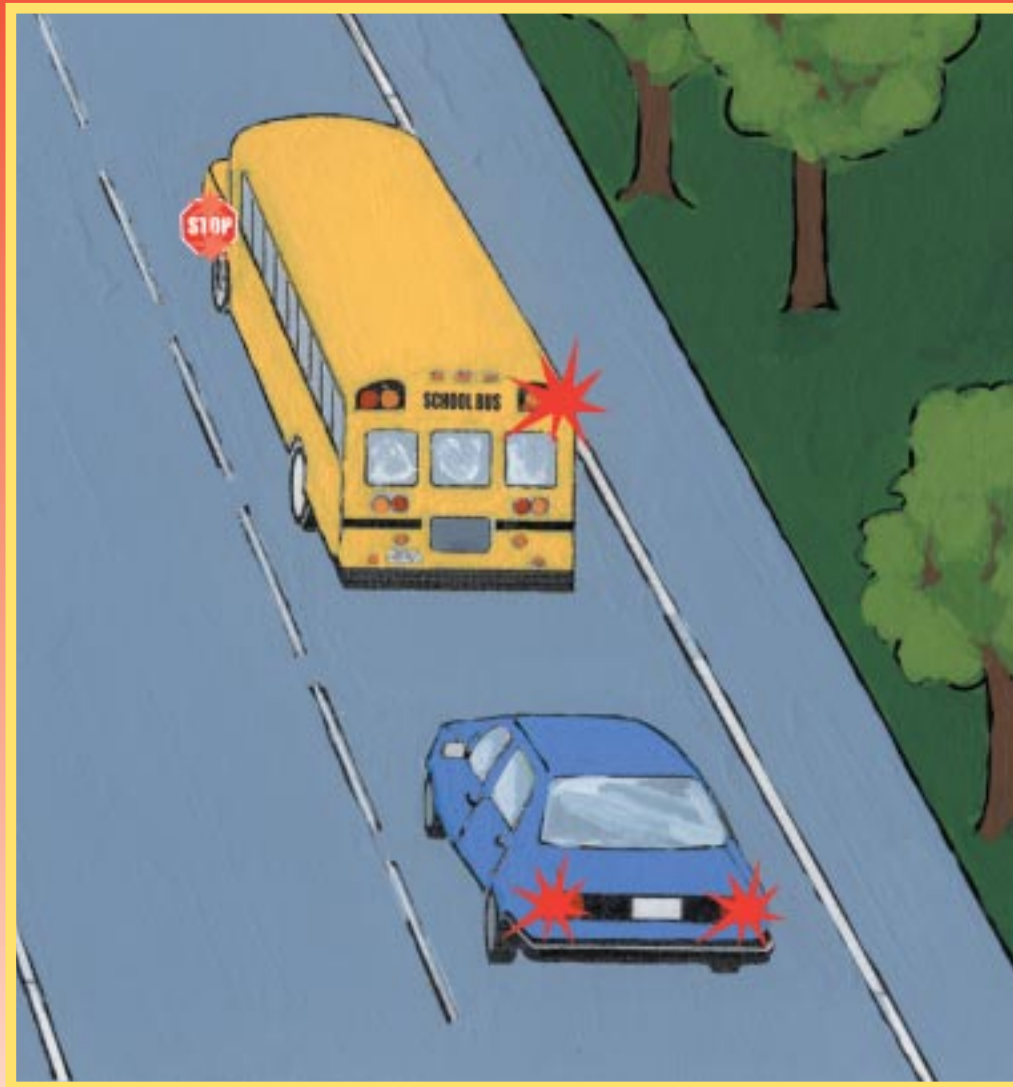
The majority of school bus fatalities
occur in the danger zone.

To Stop or Not To Stop

Motorists are often unclear about
whether or not to stop in the
following situations.



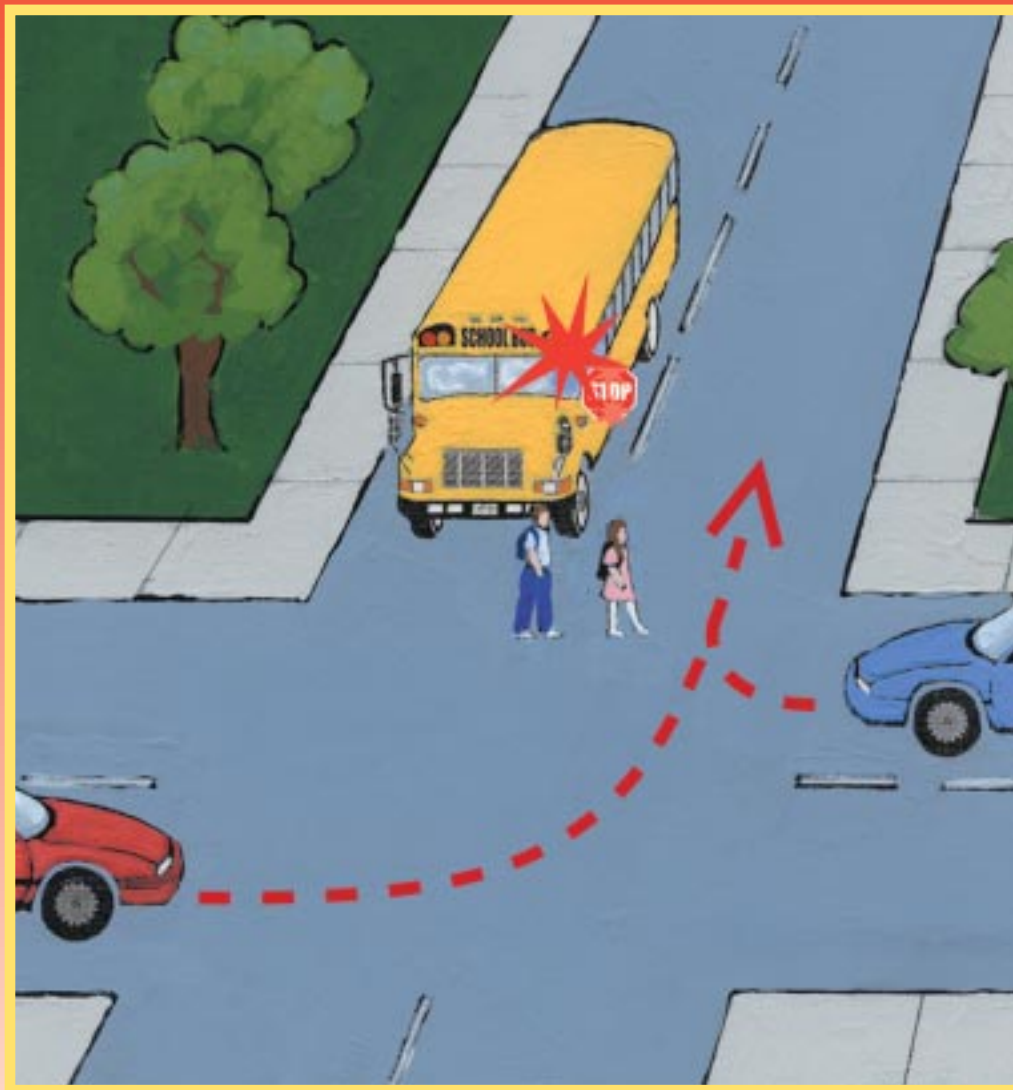
On a two-lane roadway, when you approach a stopped school bus from the front, *you must stop*. (Children may exit the bus and cross the road in front of your car.)



When you approach a school bus from behind, when its red lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended, *you may not pass on either side! Stop 20 feet from the bus.*



When you approach a stopped school bus from *any* direction, *you must stop* when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.



When you intend to turn (in any direction) into a street where a school bus is stopped with red lights flashing and stop arm extended, *you must stop and wait, before turning,* until the red lights are off and the stop arm is withdrawn.

Keeping our children safe as they
ride the bus is just a matter of
knowledge and caution. Know the
laws, and carefully obey them as
you drive. Our children's lives and
safety depend on you. Thanks for
protecting them!

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Protect Our Children
STOP
and stay stopped.
A child's life depends on it!



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