

# EFFINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

## Transportation Department

### Bus Safety Rules - 2017

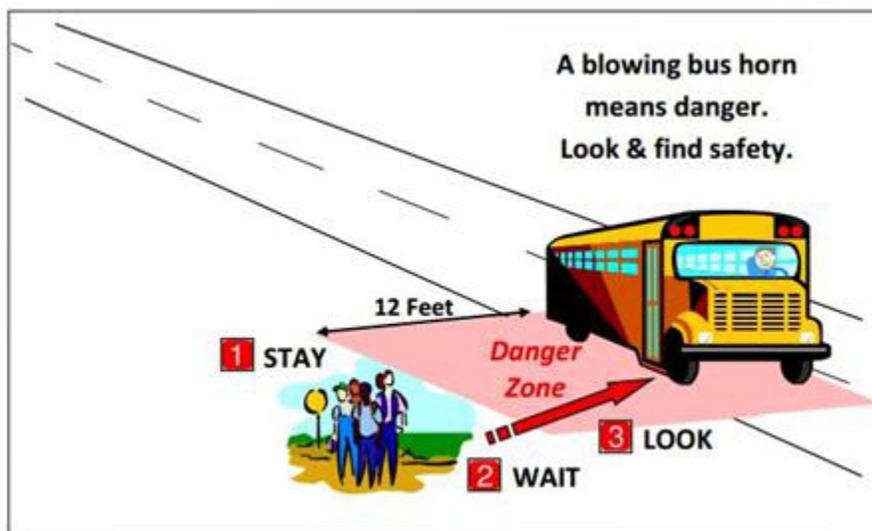
Please review the [Georgia Department of Education's School Bus Safety resources](#) for handbooks and publications highlighting the importance of bus safety.

#### Loading: Door Side

**Stay** – on your side of the road, 12 feet away from traffic

**Wait** – for the bus to stop;  
for the door to open; and  
for all traffic to stop from both directions. When it is OK...

**Look** – for moving traffic both ways as you walk through the danger zone, directly towards the bus door and board the bus without delay.



**DANGER – Cars May Not Stop!**

#### Remember:

- Stay on your side of the road until the bus comes.
- Stay at least 12 feet away from the edge of the road.
- Wait for the bus to stop and for the door to open.
- Do not step towards the bus until YOU look to be sure all traffic has stopped. The stop arm is asking the cars to stop, but they may not stop. If you see a car moving, do not move forward until it has stopped. When it is ok...
- Continue to look in both directions for moving cars as you walk straight towards the door. Be sure your bus driver can see you.
- Stay away from the front and rear bus tires and promptly board the bus.
- Use the handrail.
- Go directly to your seat

## Loading: Crossing the Road

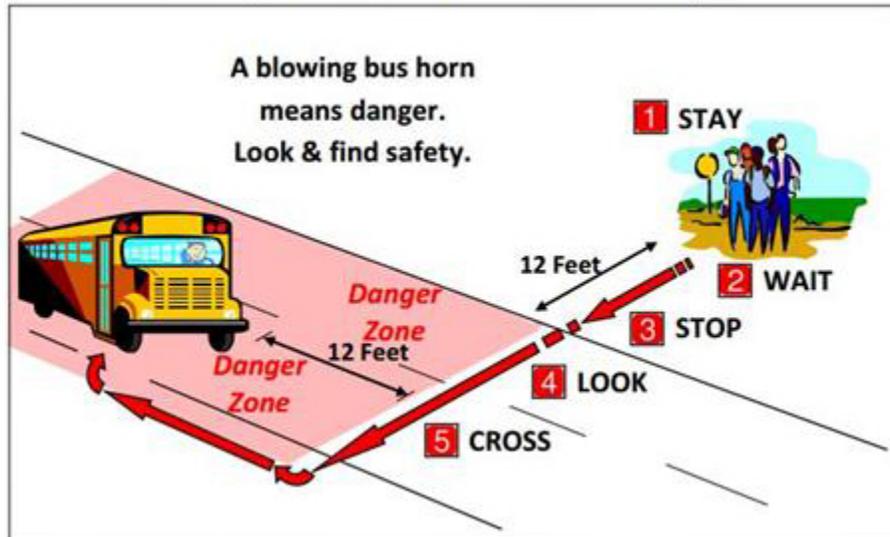
**Stay** – on your side of the road, 12 feet away from traffic.

**Wait** – for the bus to stop and the stop arm to extend. Wait for your bus driver's signal to cross. When you get to the edge of the road...

**Stop** – and look for traffic both ways, then check again. When it is OK...

**Look** – for moving traffic both ways as you walk directly across the road.

**Cross** – 12 feet in front of the bus in full view of the driver. Be careful in the danger zone; board the bus without delay.



**Crossing the Highway is DANGEROUS – Cars may not stop!**

### Remember:

- Stay on your side of the road until the bus comes.
- Stay at least 12 feet away from the edge of the road.
- Wait for the bus to stop and for your driver to signal when it is safe to cross.
- Stop walking at the edge of the road. The stop arm is asking cars to stop, but they may not stop. YOU must look both ways for moving cars. If a car is moving, do not step into the road. When it is OK...
- Continue to look both ways for moving cars as you walk straight across the road.
- Cross 12 feet in front of the bus and be sure your bus driver can see you. Look for moving cars, be careful in the danger zone, and promptly board the bus.
- Use the handrail.
- Go directly to your seat.

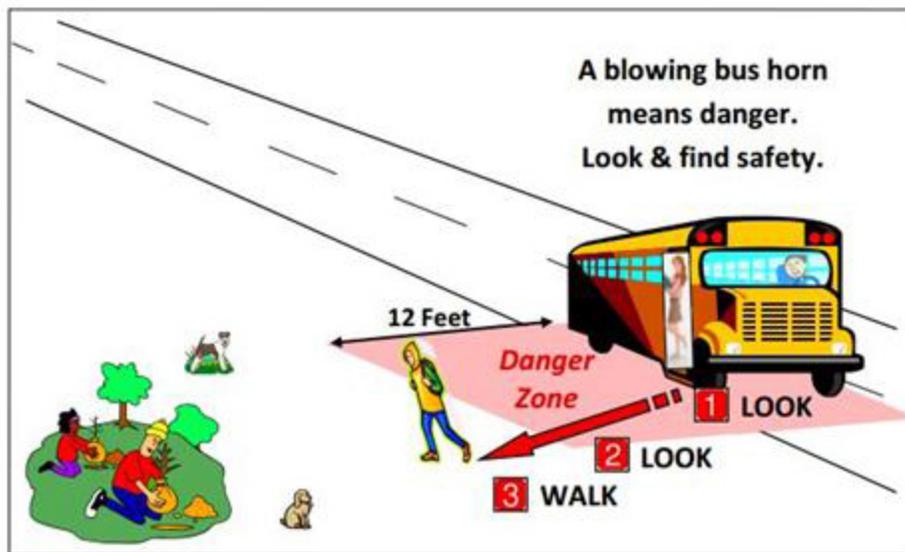
## Unloading: Door Side

Safe student behaviors if **not** required to cross the road after exiting the bus.

**Look** – for moving traffic in all directions, especially from your right, before you leave the bus. Cars sometimes pass the bus on the right side. When it is OK, continue to...

**Look** – for moving traffic both ways as you promptly...

**Walk** – directly away from the bus 12 feet before stopping. You want your bus driver to see you leave the danger zone.



### DANGER – Cars May Not Stop!

#### Remember:

- **YOU** must look for moving cars in all directions, especially to your right, before you leave the bus. The stop arm is asking the cars to stop, but they may not stop. If you see a car moving, wait for it to stop. When it is ok...
- Leave the bus and continue to look for cars in both directions as you ...
- Walk straight away from the bus, in full view of your driver. Keep walking until you get out of the danger zone, 12 feet away from the bus.

### Unloading: Across the Road

Safe student behaviors if required to **cross the road** after exiting the bus.

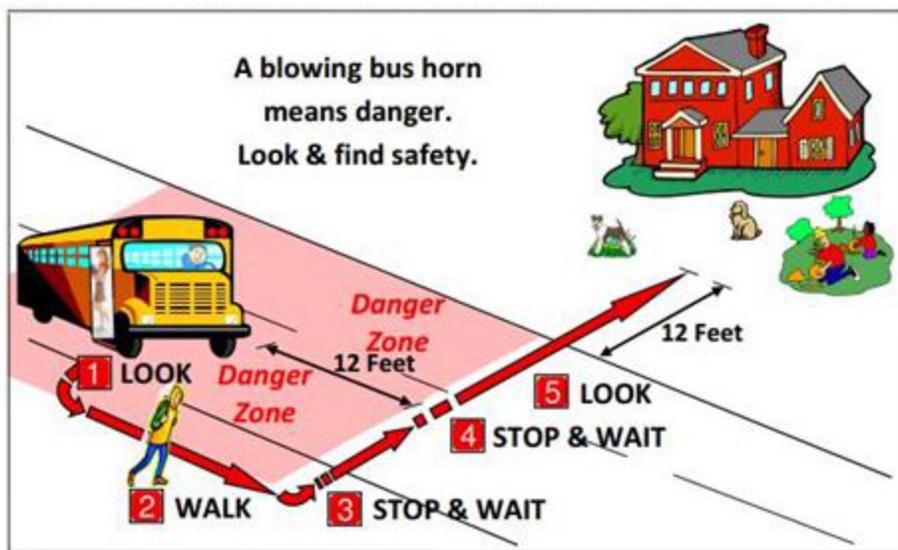
**Look** – for moving traffic in all directions, especially to your right, before you exit. Cars sometimes pass the bus on the right side. When OK...

**Walk** – away from the right door in front of the bus in full view of your driver, going past the extended bus crossing gate. Then stop and...

**Wait** – for your bus driver's signal to cross. On their signal, stay 12 feet away from the bus and walk to the center of the road and...

**Stop** – looking both ways for moving traffic. Wait again for your driver's signal that it is OK, then continue to...

**Look** – for moving traffic as you promptly cross and exit 12 feet off the road.



**Crossing the Highway is DANGEROUS – Cars may not stop!**

### Remember:

- **YOU** must look for cars in all directions, especially the right, before you exit.
- When it's ok, walk straight away from the right front of the bus, in full view of your driver until you get past the end of the bus crossing gate. Be careful in the danger zone.
- Stop and face the center of the road. Wait for your bus driver to signal when it is safe to cross. Then look for moving cars as you walk to the center of the road.
- Stop there and look both ways for moving cars. The stop arm is asking the cars to stop, but they may not stop. If you see a car moving, wait for it to stop. Wait again for your driver to signal that it is safe to finish crossing.
- Then continue to look for cars as you walk promptly across and exit 12 feet off of the road.

## Precautions: Parents, Students, Motorists

### Parents

#### Safety Precautions When Leaving Children at Home Alone – DFCS

- Parents are responsible for the safety and supervision of their children from the time the children leave home in the morning until they board the bus, and at the end of the day from the time their children depart the bus until they arrive home.
- Insure that your child arrives at the designated bus stop 5-10 minutes before the bus arrives.
- Talk about bus safety with your child.

### Students – High Priority Safety Rules

The following rules have serious potential consequences if not followed. Students who are waiting at the school bus stop and who are loading or unloading a school bus can be at risk of being hit by either the school bus or by passing a vehicle. Students riding a school bus can also be at risk if not seated and seated correctly.

#### At the Bus Stop

- Get up and get ready on time. Arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Have all items in your book bag before you leave home so you do not drop anything.
- Wait at the bus stop in a safe place, 12 feet away from traffic.
- Keep electronic equipment packed away as you prepare to board. Never use an electronic device or wear ear buds when boarding.
- Return home and get help or phone for assistance if you miss the bus.
  - **Never** chase after the bus.

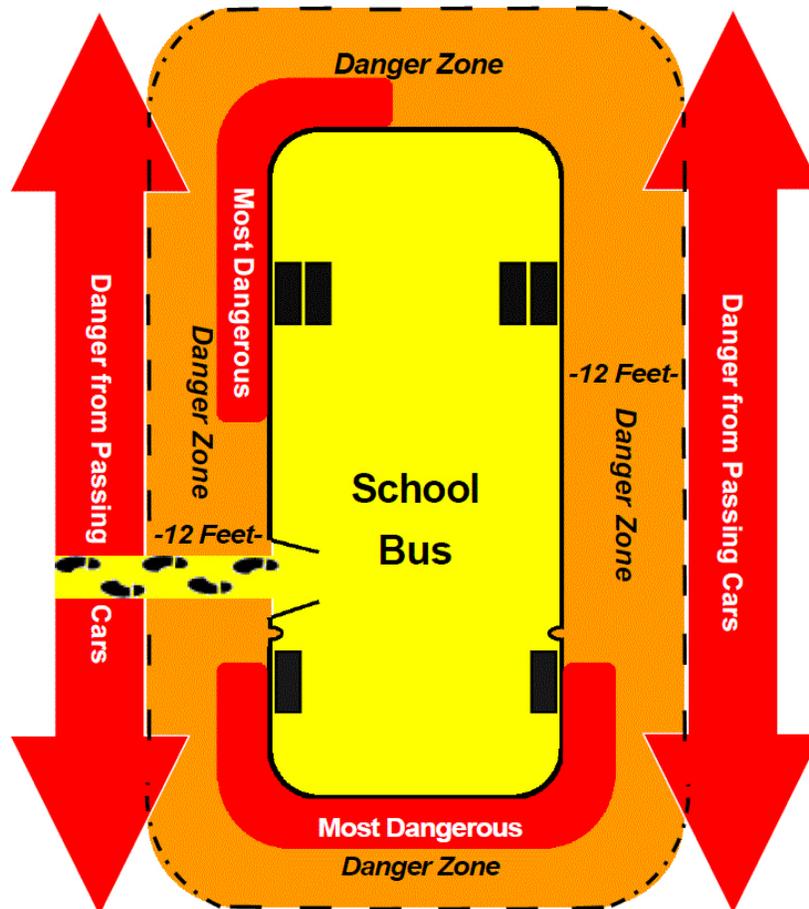
- **Never** walk to another bus stop.
- **Never** allow your parents to drive you to another stop.
- Your bus driver will not be expecting you.

### The School Bus Danger Zone

The **Danger Zone** is the 12 foot area that surrounds a stopped school bus where the bus driver might not see you or where a car might be moving when you are getting on and off the school bus.

- Stay away from the dangerous areas where it is difficult for the bus driver to see you with his/her direct vision.
  - Near the right and left front tires
  - Near the right rear tires
  - Near the front door
- Make sure you are always able to see the driver when outside the school bus.
- **Never** return to the bus for something you left behind or dropped without getting the bus driver's attention.
  - Leave any object and move to a point outside of the Danger Zone.
  - Then get the driver's attention by putting your hands and arms above your head and waving.
  - Wait for the driver to see you and give you instructions before returning to the bus or before picking up anything dropped near the bus. If you do not get the driver's attention, you should not attempt to retrieve the item.
- Be aware of the danger of passing cars that do not stop like they should.
  - The danger may be from cars passing from the rear on the left side of the bus.
  - Or from cars passing from all directions on both the left and right side of the bus.
- Always be alert and focused when near the Danger Zone.

### School Bus Danger Zone



## Loading on the Roadway

- If you **do not** have to cross the road to **get on** the bus:
  - Stay 12 feet off the road and wait for the bus to stop.
  - Look to be sure all cars have stopped before walking towards the bus.
  - Look for moving cars as you walk forward.
- If you **do** have to cross the road to **get on** the bus:
  - Wait 12 feet off the road and wait for the bus to stop and for the driver's signal for when it is safe to cross from where you are standing.
  - Look for moving cars as you walk to the edge of the road.
  - Stop at the edge of the road and look both ways to be sure that any moving cars come to a stop.
  - Look both ways for moving cars while walking straight across the road.
  - Cross 12 feet in front of the bus.
- Make sure you can see the bus driver so s/he can see you.
- Leave any item if dropped and move to a point out of the 12 foot Danger Zone. Do not retrieve anything without first getting the attention of the bus driver by waving your hands above your head and then receiving instruction from the bus driver.
- Stay away from the front and rear bus tires.
- Look for moving cars when getting on the bus.
- Listen for the danger signal (the bus horn). If you hear the bus horn, immediately look for and avoid the danger of passing cars that did not stop.

## Riding the Bus

- Sit the safe way, facing forward with your back against the back of the seat and your bottom against the bottom of the seat.
- Remain seated at all times and keep the aisles clear.
- Avoid loud or disruptive behavior that could distract the bus driver from safely operating the school bus.
- Follow the directions of the school bus driver the first time they are given.
- Remain absolutely quiet at railroad grade crossings. This is a critical moment. The bus driver must be able to hear an approaching train.

## Unloading on the Roadway

- Exit your bus only at your assigned stop.
- Remain seated until the bus comes to a full stop.
- Put away any electronic equipment before standing to exit the bus. Never use an electronic device or wear ear buds until you are safely 12 feet away from the roadway.
- When going home, wait in the bus aisle for the driver to tell you it is ok to begin to leave the bus.
- When exiting the bus, make sure book bag straps, purses, clothing drawstrings, etc. do not get caught on the handrail or in the door.
- When going home, look for moving cars in all directions, especially to your right, before stepping off the bus.
- If you **do not** have to cross the road **after exiting** the bus:
  - Look for cars in both directions as you walk straight away from the bus, in full view of the driver.
  - Keep walking until you are out of the Danger Zone, 12 feet away from the bus.
- If you **do** have to cross the road **after exiting** the bus:
  - Walk straight away from the right front of the bus, in the bus driver's full view.
  - Always be able to see the bus driver (so they can see you).
  - Wait for the driver's signal that it is safe to cross two different times:
    - At the end of the crossing gate
    - At the center of the road
  - Look for cars to your left and right while walking directly across and exiting 12 feet of the road.
  - **Never** cross behind the bus.

- Leave any item if dropped or left on the bus and move to a point out of the 12 foot Danger Zone. Do not retrieve anything without first getting the attention of the bus driver by waving your hands above your head then receiving instruction from the bus driver.
- Stay away from the front and rear bus tires
- Listen for the danger signal (bus horn). If you hear the bus blow, immediately look for and avoid the danger of passing cars that did not stop.
- **Never** get mail from a roadside mailbox. If a car is coming and loses control, it might run off the road.

### Unloading at School

- Make sure all items are in your book bag before departing.
- Make sure book bag straps, purses, clothing drawstrings, etc. do not get caught on the handrail or in the door.
- Walk (don't run) without delay straight towards the school.
- Stay away from the bus, so your driver can see you.
- Leave any item if dropped or left on the bus and move to a point out of the 12 foot Danger Zone. Do not retrieve anything without first getting the attention of the bus driver by waving your hands above your head then receiving instruction from the bus driver.
- Keep walking until you get out of the danger zone, 12 feet away from the bus.
- **Never** walk or run between parked cars and buses.

### Loading at School

- Walk straight towards the bus door and be sure your driver can see you.
- Leave any item if dropped near the bus and move to a point out of the 12 foot Danger Zone. Do not retrieve anything without first getting the attention of the bus driver by waving your hands above your head and then receiving instruction from the bus driver.
- Stay away from the front and rear bus tires and promptly board the bus.
- **Never** chase after a moving bus. Once the buses start moving, you should stop moving.

### Motorists

- Be on the lookout for children. They can appear suddenly and without notice out from behind stopped school buses.
- Please obey the posted speed limit in school zones. Children may be present in the area at any time, but are especially present when the lights on the school zone sign are flashing.
- When the yellow warning lights on the bus flash, this lets motorists know that the bus will be stopping to load or unload students. Please slow down and prepare to stop instead of speeding up to pass the bus.