

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the requirements to become a school bus driver?**

Drivers must have a clean driving record, obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and pass written and skills tests. Once they have their licenses, drivers receive specialized classroom and behind-the-wheel training in driving a school bus, student loading/unloading procedures, student evacuation, student behavior and security management, and emergency medical procedures. School bus drivers are carefully monitored by the school district and/or company that manages school bus fleets to ensure that they continue to meet strict safety standards. All school bus drivers are required to participate in pre-employment, random, and post-accident drug and alcohol testing, undergo frequent driving record checks, and pass periodic medical exams to ensure they are physically qualified. Drivers are also required to participate in pre-employment, random, and post-accident drug and alcohol testing, undergo frequent driving record checks, and pass periodic medical exams to ensure they are physically qualified. Drivers must also pass federal and state background checks prior to employment.

### **Why don't school buses have seat belts?**

School buses are the safest way to transport children. The color and size make school buses easily visible and identifiable. The height provides good visibility and raises the passengers above car impact height. The passengers on a school bus are compartmentalized, surrounded with padding and structural integrity to secure the entire container. The seat backs are raised and the shell is reinforced for protection against impact.

### **How can a school bus be safer than a car with airbags and seatbelts?**

According to the Transportation Research Board, part of the National Academy of Sciences, a child is 13 times safer in a school bus than in other modes of travel. Children driving to school or riding with other teenage drivers are 44 times more likely to be fatally injured than in a school bus.

### **I feel better just driving my child to school.**

School buses are the safest form of transportation for students and often times safer than riding in the family car. The more children riding a school bus means fewer cars on the road. School buses provide free, healthy, safe, and secure transportation to school. Each day, more than 480,000 school buses deliver 26 million students to school safely and reliably, so they arrive at school ready to learn.

### **How can I be sure that my child is safe from bullying on the bus?**

School bus drivers are trained with techniques to manage student behavior and work with school administrators to address the issue. Many school buses now have cameras installed to monitor students and help with identification and resolution of problems.

### **What can parents do to help keep kids safe on and off the school bus?**

The American School Bus Council is working hard to keep children safe, but there are things you and your child can do to take an active role in staying safe.

- Walk your child to and from the bus stop. If possible, wait with your child until the bus arrives.
- Be alert to traffic. Check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus.
- Wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the street.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus to cross the street.
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.
- Before leaving the sidewalk, look for the flashing lights.
- Never go under the bus to retrieve something you've dropped.
- Teach your child the importance of staying seated on the bus.
- Get to know your bus driver.
- Get to know the parents of other riders. You will learn about the other children your riding along with your child.
- Sign up for [American School Bus Council updates](#) to stay informed about the latest news and information on school buses.
- Read "[Carmen Loves the Bus](#)" with your child.

