

# School Bus Safety

During the first few weeks of each school year, as students adjust and learn the route, our buses might run late for pickup or dropoff. The schedule becomes more predictable by the end of August.

- Help your student become familiar with the bus stop. Point out landmarks that are easily recognized to help students know which stop is their stop. (Note: In the afternoon, students are not let off a bus on cul-de-sac streets until the bus is on its way out of the cul-de-sac.)
- Make sure students understand that they shouldn't get off the bus if they are uncertain about the stop. Children should tell the driver they aren't sure. The driver will take the student back to the school and contact the student's family. This is particularly important for younger students who are more likely to "follow the crowd" off the bus.
- Whether your child rides the bus home or to daycare, following a routine from the first day at school helps the student and the driver become familiar with each other and the bus route.
- If possible, coordinate with neighborhood families to have an adult present at the bus stop each morning and afternoon. When students recognize the adult "on duty" during the afternoon route, they will know that they have gotten to the correct stop.
- Be visible at the bus stop by getting out of your car and standing with your child.
- Be at your bus stop five minutes early and only use your child's assigned stop.

- Encourage children to get on and off the bus in an orderly line. Make sure hands are free and all your child's belongings are inside their bookbag.
- Get to know your child's bus driver.

## Teach your child how to be safe around the bus:

- Stay 12 feet from the street and never approach the bus unless it is completely stopped and the door is open.
- Never step toward the bus before looking to be sure all the traffic has stopped in both directions. Never assume approaching cars will stop!
- Look for traffic before exiting the bus when unloading. Your child should then proceed in a straight line, in full view of the bus driver, directly to a safe location 12 feet away from the bus and the street.
- Always look for moving cars if they must cross the street. Your child should also make eye contact with the bus driver and watch for the driver's signals.
- Never cross behind a bus or return to the bus after unloading.
- Never attempt to retrieve an item they dropped near the bus without first getting the driver's full attention and instructions on how to proceed. They should stand away from the bus at a safe distance, then they can get the driver's attention by waving their hands in the air.
- A blowing bus horn means DANGER. Teach your child to look and find a safe place to go immediately.

## GWINNETT COUNTY SCHOOL BUS CAMERA SAFETY PROGRAM

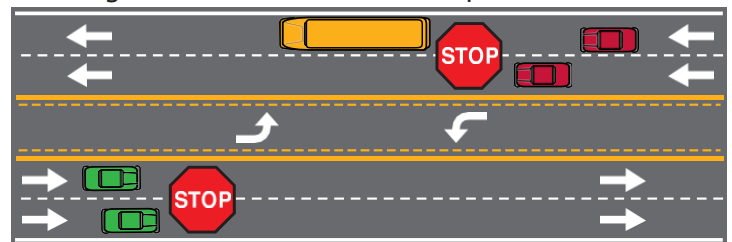
Gwinnett County Public Schools reminds drivers of the laws in effect when children are getting on and off the bus, and that GCPS has placed cameras on buses to deter drivers from illegally passing stopped school buses. When the school bus amber or red lights are flashing, the camera automatically detects vehicles passing the stopped bus, and records the violation. The violator will receive a citation in the mail. The district has approximately 300 buses with cameras this school year.

Here are examples of different roadways and how motorists should react to a stopped school bus, based on the law.

**Two-lane roadway:** Vehicles traveling in both directions must stop.



**Multi-lane roadway:** With paved turning lane— vehicles traveling in both directions must stop.



**Divided roadway:** With dirt, grass, or barrier median— Vehicles traveling behind the bus must stop. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction must use caution.

