

SAFETY INFORMATION

Role of the Student:

Safety on the bus begins with the student. Certain basic rules of conduct combined with the use of common sense are a must to assure a safe ride. Students should be aware of all safety rules including those posted inside the bus. Please take time to read the following rules and follow them.

Bus Safety Rules:

Observe same conduct as in the classroom.

Be courteous, do not use inappropriate language.

Do not eat or drink on the bus. This includes chewing gum.

Keep the bus clean.

Cooperate with the bus driver.

Do not smoke.

Do not be destructive.

Stay in your seat.

Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus (and to yourself).

Bus driver is authorized to assign seats.

No cell phone on the bus.

No animals, reptiles or large items are allowed on the bus.

Musical instruments are permitted on the bus as long as they can be securely held on the student's lap.

Students should not wear book bags on their backs while riding on the bus.

Written permission must be obtained from the school office before riding a different bus or getting off at a different stop due to emergency situations.

New York State law and the need for safety make it necessary to restrict the size of objects (i.e., musical instruments) that can be transported on the bus. Please check with the school's main office before bringing such objects on the bus.

REMEMBER: Riding the bus is a privilege.

The cooperation of everyone to follow these simple rules will make the bus riding experience a pleasant and safe one for all.

Any student reported by our Transportation Department to the school administrators for misconduct on the school bus will be held responsible for his/her behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Drivers use a "Bus Conduct Report" that identifies the violation committed by the student.

When a few conduct reports have been made, the result is suspension of the student's riding privileges. The decision is based on such criteria as Board of

Education policy, the District's Zero Tolerance for Violence Policy and the severity of the incident and surrounding circumstances.

Most of our buses are equipped with video cameras that have proven to be very effective in identifying students who behave inappropriately.

Role of the Parent/Guardian:

Parents and guardians are an important part of the smooth operation of the Hendrick Hudson transportation system. You can help promote and maintain safety in many different ways.

These are just a few:

Help teach your child the importance of good behavior aboard the bus.

Go over the rules and responsibilities of riding the bus with your child.

Ensure that your child is on time in the morning.

Work on reducing the number of loose items your child brings on the bus. New York State safety regulations prohibit the transporting of large objects on the bus. These items should be brought to school in a car. Contact your school or the Transportation Department if you have any question about specific items.

Be sure your child knows the rules and understands the consequences of breaking them. Information given out in the schools contain a more detailed listing of bus discipline procedures. Please take the time to read those procedures.

Instruct children not to get off the bus unless it is their stop. If the driver misses their stop, the child should notify the driver and they will be returned to the designated bus stop as soon as possible. This also applies if a child is on the wrong bus.

Parents/Guardians: Help Us Teach Your Child Bus Safety.

When safety rules are ignored, people can get hurt. Unfortunately, some people never stop to think about the harm that breaking a rule can cause until it is too late.

Emergencies:

Emergency situations (problems dealing with heating, electricity or water failure) are impossible to predict. The staff does everything possible to notify you in advance to avoid students being left unsupervised or locked out of their homes.

It is important that you establish with your child the procedures you would like followed if he/she comes home and finds no one there. Your child should know in advance about telephoning you, using a hidden key or staying with an approved friend or neighbor.

Check with your individual school to determine the specific procedures (phone chains, etc.) used to notify parents and guardians in case of an emergency. Please cooperate with your schools in providing up-to-date emergency information at the beginning of each school year and whenever your information changes.

Danger Zones:

Most injuries and deaths involving school buses occur outside the bus and by the bus.

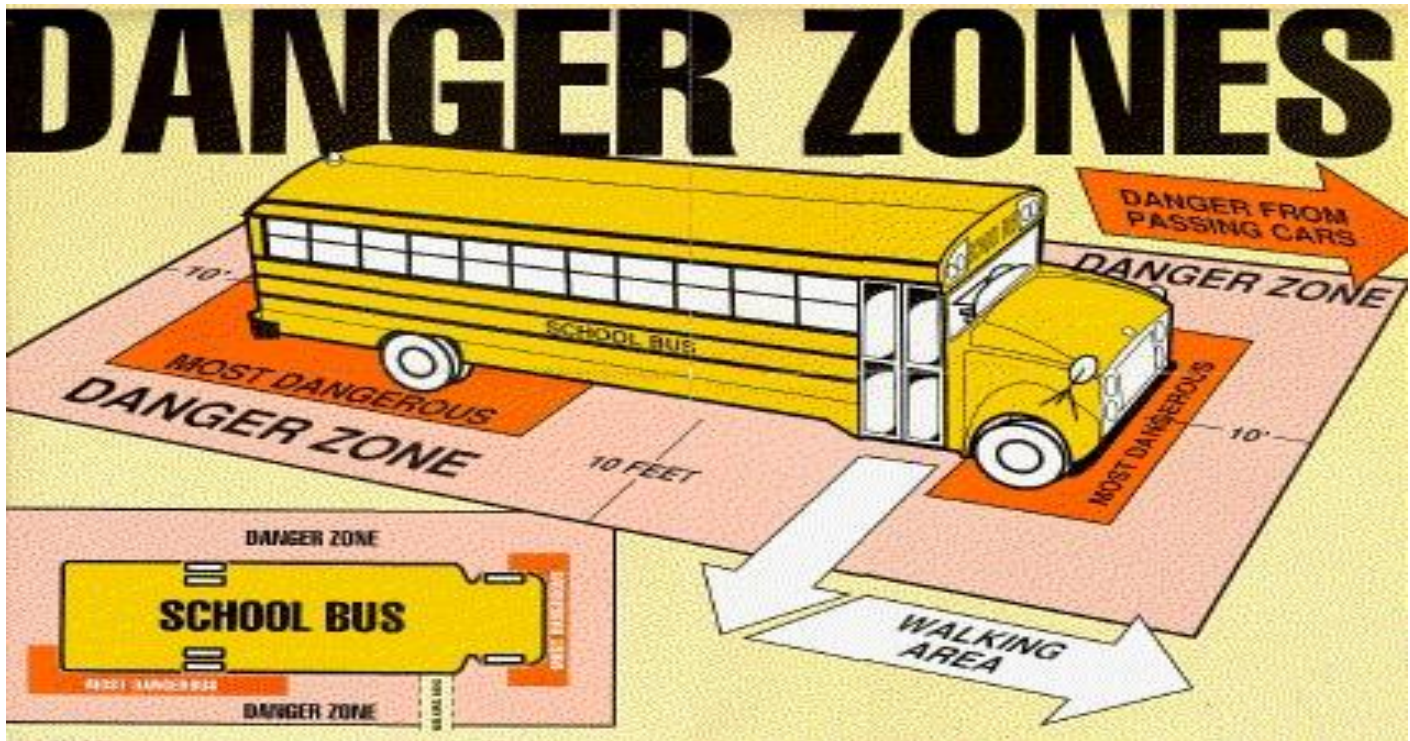
Even though there are mirrors on the bus, the driver cannot see people close to the bus. Because the bus is so big, car drivers cannot see them either. Anyone inside the 'danger zone' is in great danger! Do your part to make sure everyone gets on safely:

1. Always stay out of the school bus danger zones. Line up when you see the bus coming. Wait your turn to board the bus. Stand back at least 15 feet to give the bus room to pull over. The tires are the most dangerous part of the bus. Never play near the bus.
2. Use the 'ten foot rule' if you have to cross the street when getting on or off the bus. Always cross far enough in front of the bus so that you can see the driver's face. Do not cross until the bus driver signals you it is safe. Always look carefully both ways yourself when you have reached the middle of the street. Never return for something you have dropped in the street...get the bus driver's or some other adult's attention. They will help you. And if the bus driver honks the horn while you are crossing, go back to the 'safe curb' (the curb you started from) at once. A car could be speeding towards you... remember, not all cars stop for the buses' flashing lights!
3. Always stay in your seat on the bus, unless you are getting off the bus and the bus is fully stopped. Most injuries on a bus are the result of children not being properly seated. Do not sit on your books, backpack or knees. Do not sit with your legs out into the aisle. If the bus has to stop fast, you could be seriously injured.
4. Know how to evaluate the bus in an emergency. Your bus driver will explain this to you. Listen closely. In an accident or a fire, you could have to get off the bus quickly, without panicking.

Bus safety is a team effort of bus driver, student, the motoring public and the parents/guardians. If you have a bus safety concern, call the District Transportation Office at 257-5200.

Hendrick Hudson Transportation Department

“Danger Zones”



No child should ever be in the pink danger zone. Children leaving the bus should walk straight ahead, away from the bus, for at least 10 feet before turning in either direction. When it is necessary for children to cross in front of the bus, they should walk ten feet from the bus door, (in the direction of the white arrow) before turning toward the front of the bus.

The front of the bus is the most dangerous area. Within the bright red zone at the front of the bus are a number of "blind spots" in which the driver cannot see a small child or one who is stooping to pick up a dropped article. The exact position and size of the blind spots depends upon the number of mirrors the bus has, how they are arranged and adjusted, and whether or not they are clean. It is important for young children to understand that all of the red area is dangerous because the driver may not be able to see them. Children must be educated to move forward away from the front of the bus

until they can see the driver's face. If the child can see the driver's face, the driver is able to see the child.

Maintaining that line of vision is the next objective. This can be best accomplished by requiring the children in the high risk category (grades K-3) to wear a backpack or carry a book bag.

If the loose objects these children so often take home are carried in a backpack or a book bag, the chances of dropping them are greatly reduced.

The large red arrow at the top right shows the area of special danger from passing cars and other vehicles. Some children may point out that it is against the law for a car to pass a stopped school bus. That is true. The fact is, however, that an occasional driver violates the law. Since the large bus hides children from the sight of a driver passing from the rear, this situation is particularly dangerous.

When children must cross in front of the bus, the following safety rules should be observed:

1. Children should cross only after receiving permission from the driver or school bus patrol.
2. Children should cross at least ten feet in front of the bus.
3. Children should establish "eye contact" (that is, look at the bus driver) before starting across.
4. Children should look both ways and should only enter the part of the roadway marked by the large red arrow after receiving an "**all clear**" sign from the driver or safety patrol.

A third area of special danger is the bright red area at the right rear of the bus. Small or stooping children in this danger area (from the right rear wheel to the back of the bus) cannot be seen by the driver. The safety rule for this danger zone is very simple: Children should stay out of it at all times.

HOW TO CROSS SAFELY

