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# Pittsford Schools

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## **SAFE RIDER PROGRAM**

### *Mission Statement*

*To prevent all student fatalities and injuries, inside and outside the school bus, through a comprehensive program of student and school bus driver education*

The Safe Rider Program began as an idea in September 1995. As a testimony to the success of our Program, many other school districts in the Rochester area have adopted and utilized similar bus safety models.

Our Safe Rider Team consists of Pittsford's own professional 19-A qualified school bus drivers and attendants. The team members practice what they teach by safely transporting your children to and from school each day. The Program, held at each elementary school in the District, is broken up into 3 separate sessions throughout the school year. The schedule is coordinated by the Transportation Department Safety Office.

- **FALL PROGRAM** – begins at the start of the school year. It typically runs from mid-September to late October. The lessons themselves cover topics such as safe loading, seat belt use, and rear emergency exiting. The students actually walk around, board, and evacuate a full-size school bus.
- **WINTER PROGRAM** – held in January and February. Since the weather is rather cold, we move the classes indoors in the warm confines of the school auditorium. The students are taught safe loading techniques such as where to wait for your bus and how to load/unload in slippery conditions. Winter weather behavior is also covered. The Safe Rider Team uses participatory demonstrations as well as video tapes.
- **SPRING PROGRAM** – held in in April and May. It is designed in the same format as the Fall Program. A review of loading and unloading procedures are done at this time, as well as proper bus stop behavior and alternate methods of evacuating the bus in an emergency.

Statistics prove school children need to learn about bus safety from the very first day of school. Lack of proper safety training in and around school buses can lead to tragic results. Listen to your children describe what they have learned after beginning this Program and practice with them. Practicing proper bus safety may be a matter of life or death. For this reason, the Pittsford Central School District is committed to the Safe Rider Program.