

Gallipolis City Schools

School Bus Safety: Keeping Every Child Safe on the Ride to School

School buses are the safest way to transport children to and from school—70 times safer than traveling by car. However, the greatest risks occur outside the bus, in loading and unloading zones. This guide provides essential safety information for students, parents, drivers, and communities to ensure every child arrives safely at their destination. From understanding the danger zone to following proper procedures at bus stops, these critical practices protect our most precious passengers every single day.

Essential School Bus Safety Tips & Rules

The Danger Zone

The area 10 feet around the bus is the most hazardous. Children must stay clear of this zone at all times. Always make eye contact with the driver before crossing, and if you drop something, never go to pick it up until the bus has left.

At the Bus Stop

Arrive at least 5 minutes early. Wait quietly and maintain a safe distance of 10 giant steps from the curb. Never play near or run toward the bus as it approaches. If you miss the bus, do not chase it; notify an adult immediately.

Boarding & Exiting

Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before moving towards it. Use handrails to prevent falls. Board one at a time, find a seat quickly, and remain seated while the bus is moving. Never walk behind the bus after exiting.

On the Bus Behavior

Stay seated, facing forward, and keep the aisle clear. Keep your head, arms, and hands inside the bus at all times. Use a quiet voice and avoid distracting the driver to ensure a safe ride for everyone.

Emergency Procedures

Listen carefully to the driver's instructions during any emergency. Know the location of emergency exits, windows, and roof hatches, but only use them if instructed by the driver or in a dire emergency. Stay calm and follow directions.

Weather Considerations

Dress appropriately for the weather, especially in rain or snow. Be extra careful on slippery sidewalks and at bus stops. Reduced visibility in bad weather means both drivers and students need to be more alert and cautious.

How Parents and Students Can Help

01

For Parents

Walk with young children to and from the bus stop and wait with them. Ensure children wear light-colored or reflective clothing, especially in low light conditions.

02

For Students

Always obey the bus driver and practice "classroom behavior" on the bus to avoid distractions. Keep hands, arms, and head inside at all times.

Critical Safety Reminders

Parent Checklist

- Teach children to wait for the bus to stop completely
- Ensure they cross only when the driver signals
- Check clothing for loose drawstrings that could snag on doors
- Remove dangling keychains from backpacks

Student Guidelines

- Respect other passengers and follow instructions
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion
- Keep the aisle clear of bags and belongings
- Report any safety concerns to the driver immediately

> **Remember:** Riding a school bus is 70 times safer than traveling by car, but the greatest risks happen outside the bus. Vigilance and respect for safety rules save lives.