



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Ensuring the safety of our students while they travel to and from school is a top priority of Lakota Local Schools. School bus safety is a shared responsibility that involves drivers, parents, students and school districts.

While the district is responsible for students once they board their bus, families are responsible for the safety and supervision of children to and from the designated bus stop and while students wait for their bus. Please review these guidelines and tips to help keep students safe.

Walking to the Bus Stop

- Teach your student to always walk on the sidewalk if possible and to stay off lawns.
- If there is no sidewalk, stay close to the curb on the right side of the street.
- Do not talk to strangers.
- Don't stop on the way to the bus stop.
- If it's dark, wear bright or reflective clothing so drivers can see them clearly.

About Bus Stop Locations

- Bus stops may be up to one half a mile from the student's home.
- Students should be at their bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Bus stops are chosen for safety, taking in traffic, visibility and weather considerations.
- Each student is assigned a specific stop and it's important they wait at their assigned location.
- Students should only cross in front of the bus, never behind it.

Crossing in Front of the Bus

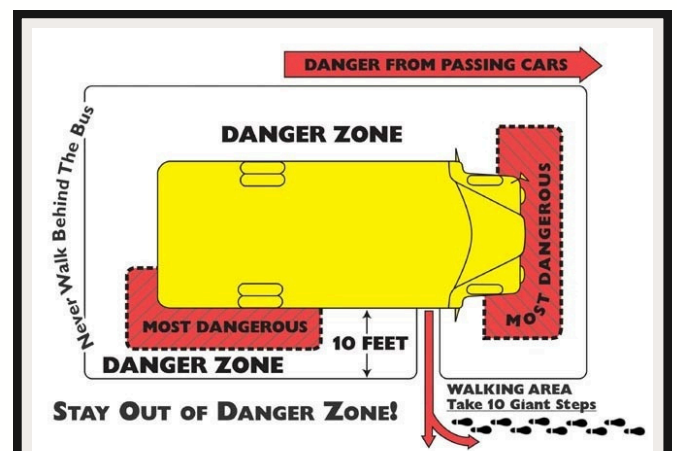
- Students should wait for the driver's signal, look both ways for traffic and cross at least 20 steps in front of the bus.

Getting on the Bus

- Each student will be assigned a Designated Place of Safety (school bus stop).
- Students should wait at the Designated Place of Safety until the bus comes to a full stop, the driver signals them to board and the student double checks for traffic.
- Use the handrail when getting on and off the bus to avoid accidents.
- Once inside, students should head directly to their seat and stay seated during the ride.

Getting off the Bus

- After being dropped off, students should walk to their designated place of safety to stay away from the bus (20 steps).
- Students should wait there until the bus leaves.
- If the bus driver honks the horn, this signals danger, and students should be extra careful.



- The "danger zones" are the 10-foot areas around the bus, especially in front and near the rear tires
- Students need to stay out of these areas to avoid accidents
- If something is dropped in these areas, tell the driver before trying to pick it up



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Positive Behaviors on the Bus

- Be respectful and follow the bus driver's instructions right away.
- Be kind to other students – no bullying and no profane language.
- Stay seated with feet flat on the floor.
- Keep aisles clear.
- Carry only those objects, including musical instruments, on the bus, which can be properly secured and held on a lap.
- Headphones, balls, toys, etc. must be kept in book bags.
- Electronic devices such as cell phones can be used on the bus, but no video filming is permitted.
- Personal items stay on laps.
- No chewing gum, eating or drinking unless required for medical reasons.
- No using nicotine (vapes, etc.) or drugs on the bus.
- Do not throw things on, from or into the bus.
- Do not stick heads or arms out the window.
- Be silent at railroad crossings.

Why It Takes So Long at Bus Stops

State law requires school bus drivers to follow a number of procedures including checking mirrors, actuating warning lights, providing students with directions, counting students and more.

Emergency Procedures

- Every year, students will practice how to evacuate the bus in case of an emergency; this includes using both the front and rear exits.
- Students must listen to the driver's instructions during these drills and exit the bus quickly and quietly.
- Drivers are trained for emergencies like a school bus accident, breakdowns or even a hostile intruder.
- Lakota has plans in place to ensure your child's safety in the event of an emergency.
- By reinforcing these simple safety tips and rules, you can help ensure your student stays safe while riding the bus to and from school.

Safety Tips for Drivers

- Adhere to speed limits in school zones.
- If a bus is stopped on a street or road that has fewer than four lanes, all traffic proceeding in either direction must stop.
- Do not pass a school bus that has red alternating flashing lights on (this is the signal that the bus is stopped to load or unload children).
- Traffic should not move until the bus resumes motion or the driver signals traffic to proceed.
- If you fail to stop for a school bus, your error will not go unnoticed; bus drivers will report the license plate number of any vehicle that fails to comply with the law to a law enforcement agency.

Ohio law (ORC 3327.16 and OAC 3301-83-09) requires school districts to provide school bus safety instruction, within the first two weeks of school, for all students in kindergarten through third grade who are offered school bus transportation and have not previously attended such a program. School districts should provide all families with materials that parents can use to encourage safe and positive school bus behaviors.