

**“The safety of children
as they are transported
to and from school and
school-related events is
our highest priority.”**



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OHIO

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 22-26, 2018

This year's theme...

MY DRIVER, MY SAFETY HERO

SAFETY PROCEDURES

*Children are safer in a school bus, than in any other
type of transportation*

WHY IT TAKES SO LONG AT BUS STOPS

THE DRIVER MUST:

- Check mirrors for traffic conditions and apply brakes well in advance to warn traffic from the rear
- Actuate warning lights 300 feet in advance of the bus stop
- Stop at the designated stop
- Set the parking brake
- Place the gear shift lever into neutral gear for both manual and automatic transmissions to prevent the bus from lunging forward
- Open service door to actuate the warning lights and place hand over horn to warn students of potential hazard
- Give students directions to go to their **designated place of safety** and stay there until the bus leaves
- Look to identify students and potential hazards in the danger zone, counting and checking the mirrors, before closing the door and canceling the warning lights
- Close the door when all areas are clear. Door must be closed before the bus moves.
- Release the parking brake after closing the door.
- Recheck traffic in the right and left side mirrors prior to pulling away
- Turn off the strobe light, if used, after the bus resumes a safe roadway speed



Modification of these procedures may be necessary for transportation of preschool, kindergarten and special needs students.

SAFETY IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY!

SIGNAL FOR SAFETY

- When a school bus has alternating flashing amber lights on, it is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Be ready to stop and watch for children in the roadway.
- 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.



Motorists around school buses need to know the signals and the laws that concern school buses to help keep children safe

- If a bus is stopped on a street or road that has fewer than four lanes, all traffic proceeding in either direction must stop.
- If a bus is stopped on a street or road that has more than four lanes, only traffic proceeding in the same direction as the bus must stop.
- You must not proceed until the school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus driver 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, and an investigation will be conducted to identify the driver for enforcement purposes.

PENALTIES FOR NOT OBEYING THESE RULES COULD COST YOU UP TO \$500.00 AND A MAXIMUM OF 1-YEAR SUSPENSION OF YOUR DRIVER LICENSE

It's a partnership!

Students, Parents, Motorists and Bus Drivers all share in the responsibility of safe school bus transportation. When each of these partners take a part, school bus transportation will continue to be the safest mode of transportation for our children!

Here are some ways in which parents can help:

- Review the safety rules with children. Help them to understand why each rule is important.
- Dress children in light colored clothing or jackets on dark mornings.
- Help children to be ready at the stop before their bus arrives.
- Take turns supervising bus stops for smaller children.
- Do not allow children to wear items that may get caught in handrails, in doors, and on seats.

Students need to know and respect the following:

- Follow the bus driver's instructions
- Remain quiet at railroad crossings
- Never cross the street at a bus stop unless signaled to do so by the bus driver
- Wait at the designated place of safety at the bus stop
- Respect other people and their property
- Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the assigned time

Bus drivers help to keep children safe

in a number of ways:

- Drivers watch surrounding traffic closely to keep school children safe
- Drivers will signal to children that need to cross the street only when traffic has stopped
- In case an emergency vehicle approaches while loading or unloading, the driver will get the children to a place of safety until the emergency vehicle passes

WHERE IS THE DANGER ZONE?

The **danger zone** for a school bus is the area 10 feet around the bus.

The two most dangerous places are:

- **In front of the bus**
- **Right rear tire area**

The problem with these areas is that bus drivers cannot see children because of the size of the vehicle.



The danger zone exists as a 10 feet all around the bus—the most dangerous areas include the front of the bus and the right rear tire area.

Please talk to your child about the following safety rules:

- Avoid the danger zone around the bus.
- Do not try to pick up something dropped near the bus—the bus driver might not see you!
- **Be careful** whenever getting on or off the bus.
- After getting off the bus, take **10 giant steps** and go straight to the designated place of safety and wait there until your bus moves on.
- In the morning, wait at the designated place of safety, and do not approach the bus until the door is open.



REQUIRED RAILROAD TRACK PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL BUSES

The driver must:

- Bring the bus to a complete stop
- Open the door and a window
- Turn noise off (heaters, defrosters, etc.)
- Request silence on the bus
- Look and listen for approaching trains

The students must:

- Observe silence to allow the driver to monitor train traffic, if any
- Remain silent until the bus has completed crossing the tracks

Other Motorists must:

- Be prepared for the bus to stop
- Allow the driver to complete their procedure and then proceed safely

In Ohio, school buses are not permitted to cross tracks if a signal is activated, even if it is malfunctioning, unless a law enforcement or railroad official is present and motions them across.

THESE PROCEDURES PREVENT SCHOOL BUS/TRAIN TRAGEDIES

CAUTION

Sometimes a school bus driver must do a turn-around

- The bus will have its four-way hazard lights and backup lights on as it prepares to back into a side street to turn around.
- Motorists must exercise caution when they approach a bus in the process of completing a turn around.