



School Bus Safety is One Bus Stop at a Time

Information for Students & Parents & Guardians
Important Safety Tips for Riding the Bus
Bus Garage Phone: 315.557.2265

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Bus drivers and buses came to school to teach us about bus safety. Please ask your child(ren) what they learned and review this school bus safety handout with your children throughout the school year. Let's work together to teach children to follow these common sense practices to make school bus transportation safer.

Reminders for drivers:

- ***Yellow flashing lights*** indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- ***Red flashing lights*** and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. By law, motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Reminders for students:

AT THE BUS STOP:

- Be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- While at the bus stop, wait in a safe place away from the road. Do not run or play while waiting.
- Never talk to strangers at the bus stop and never get into a car with a stranger. Always tell your parents or teacher if a stranger tries to talk to you or asks you to get into a car.

- When the bus approaches, stand at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the road. If more than one person is at your bus stop, line up single file away from the street.
- Wait for the bus to stop, watch for its red flashing lights, and wait for the driver to tell you to enter. If you need to cross the street, make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for the bus driver's hand signal. Cross only when all traffic has stopped. Look left, right, and left again before crossing.

ON THE BUS:

- Use the handrail to help step up and into the bus.
- Go directly to a seat. Remain seated and facing forward for entire ride.
- Talk quietly (so the driver will not be distracted).
- If you need to talk to the bus driver: wait for the bus to stop, raise your hand, and call the driver's name, or say, "bus driver."
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows. Keep hands inside the bus. Never play with the emergency exits.
- Keep the aisles clear at all times and always stay behind the white "stand behind line."
- If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.

EXITING THE BUS:

- Before stepping off bottom step of bus, look right, then left, and then right again to make sure no traffic, bicycles or anything else is approaching.
- Walk at least 5-8 giant steps (10-15 ft) away from the door, where the driver can see you, before turning around, or go directly to your house. Stay away from the bus wheels and watch out for moving cars. Never stop at your mailbox to get your mail. This holds up the bus and any waiting traffic.
- Only get on and off the bus at your designated stop. If you need to go on a different bus or get off somewhere else, you will need a note from home and a bus pass from school.
- When exiting the bus, use the handrail and be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps don't get caught in the doors.
- If you leave something on the bus, never return to the bus to get it. The driver may not see you come back and may begin moving the bus. If you leave something on the bus, call the Bus Garage at 315.557.2265.
- If you hear the bus horn, STOP! And go back to where you were. The driver might see something dangerous that you can't see.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver! Do not try to pick it up.
- Never walk behind the bus.